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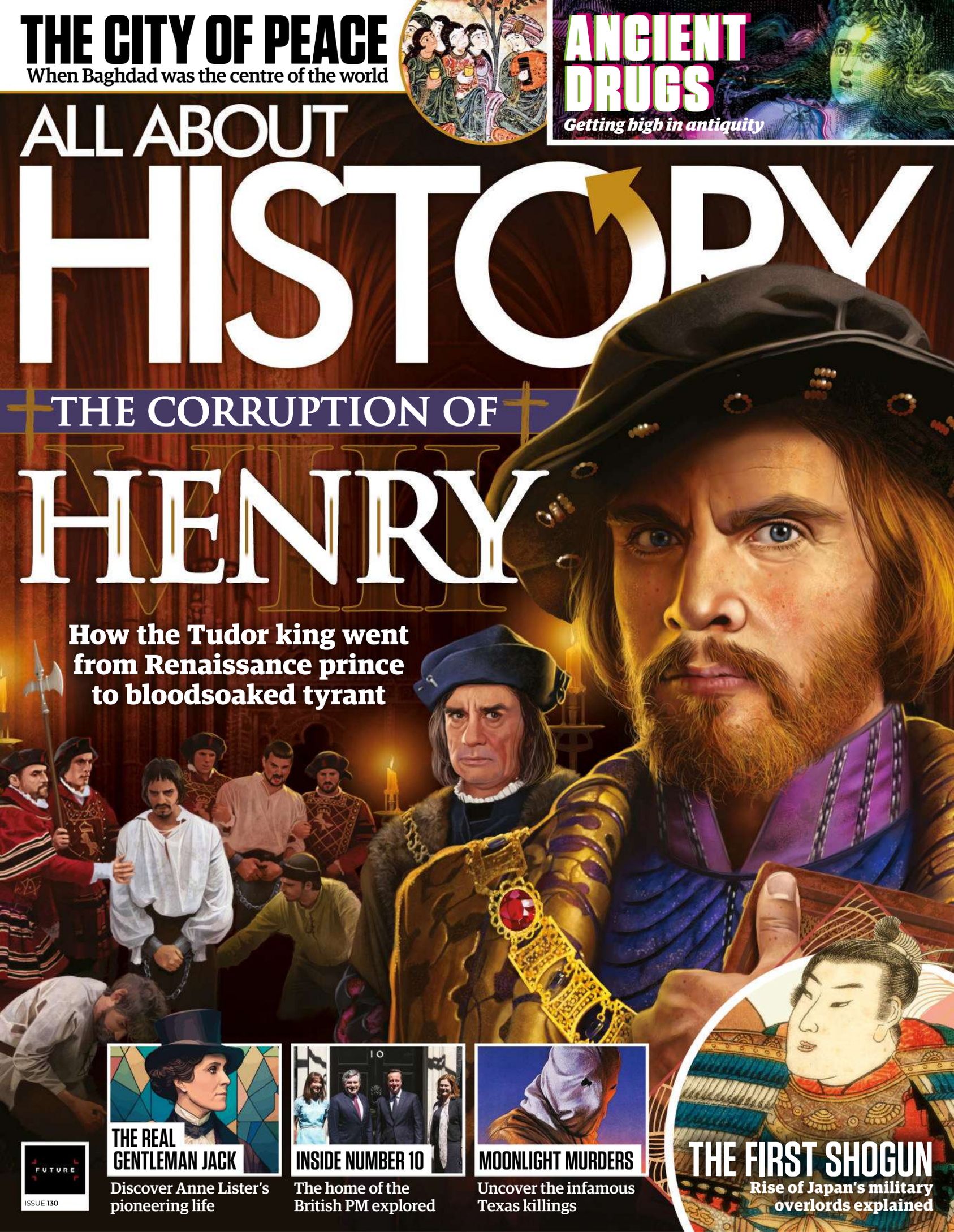

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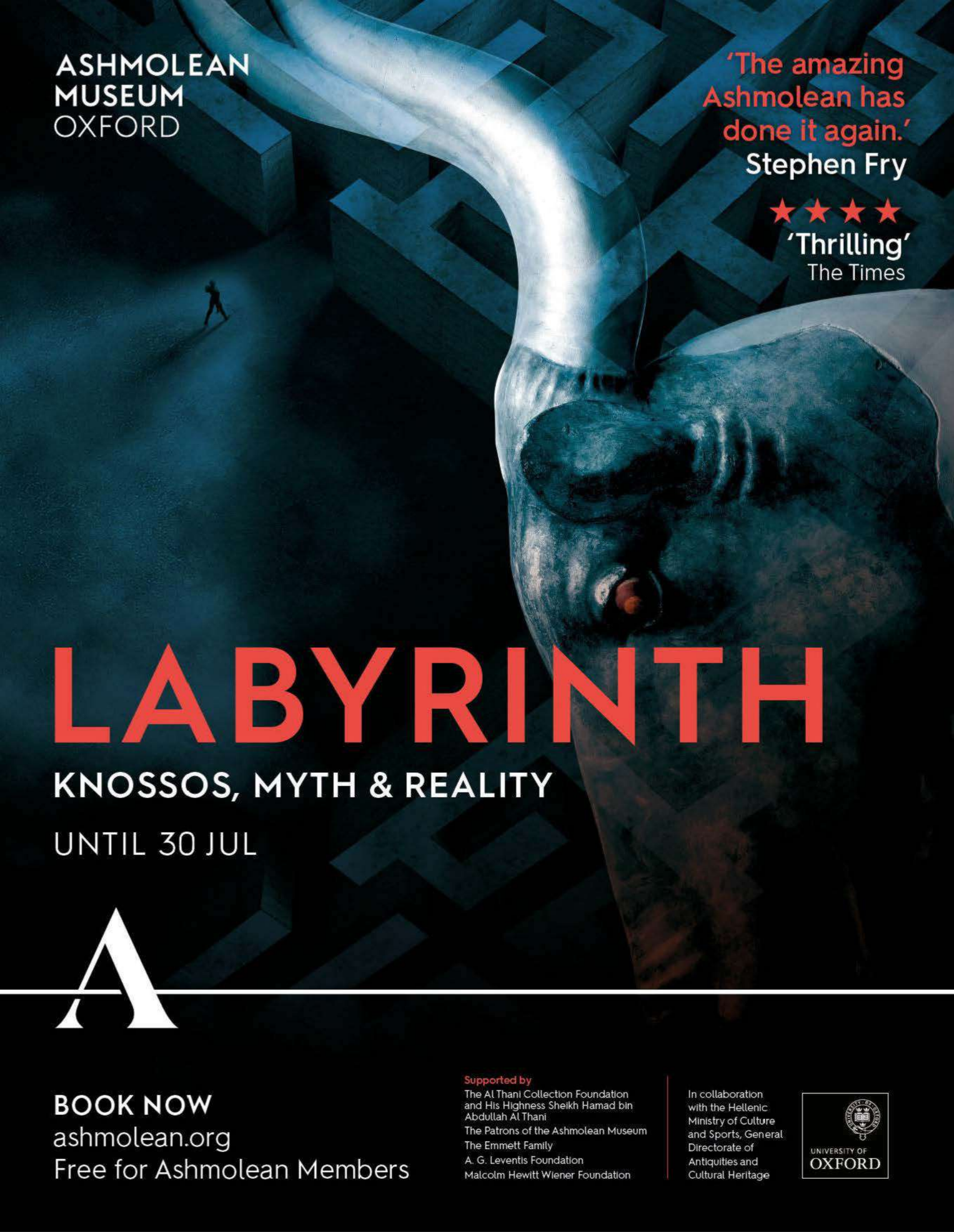
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SCAN TO GET OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Henry VIII at the opening of parliament in 1523, then located at Bridewell Palace in London

Welcome

Why always Henry? I have had reason to ponder this question frequently during my time as editor of this magazine. His allure as a topic of historical study and discussion cannot be denied. Perhaps it's just the scandal and drama of his marriages, but I think it runs deeper than that. His reign was significant for its longer lasting impact. He solidified the reign of the Tudors, which was not certain in his father's time. He broke England away from the Catholic Church, which was a massive schism for years to come. And he expanded the powers of parliament in significant ways. There was scandal, for sure, but substance as well in the reign of Henry VIII.

We welcome the insight of Glenn Richardson and Alison Weir this issue as we dig into the life of Henry VIII – particularly his shift from bright young prince to brutal monarch. Plus we uncover the world of drugs in the ancient world, learn about the first shogun, hunt for a serial killer and much more. A packed issue, just as we've tried to deliver for all of our ten years on the newsstand. Yes, we're marking the tenth anniversary of **All About History** this issue, having launched in the summer of 2013. I want to thank everyone who has played a part in our success in the last decade and to you, our readers, for your support. Here's to the next decade.

Jonathan Gordon
Editor

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Printed by Wyndeham Peterborough, Storey's Bar Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE1 5YS

Distributed by Marketforce, 5 Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5HU www.marketforce.co.uk
For enquiries, please email: mfcommunications@futurenet.com
ISSN 2052-5870

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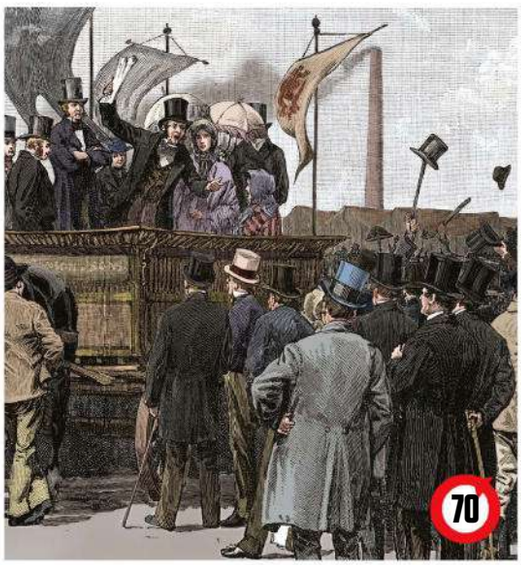

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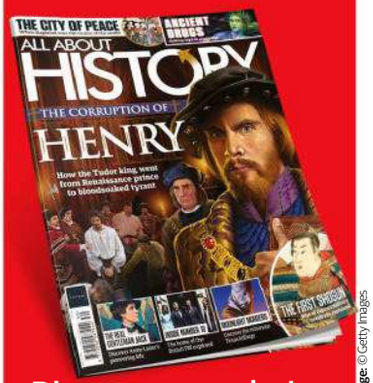

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THE CORRUPTION OF HENRY VIII

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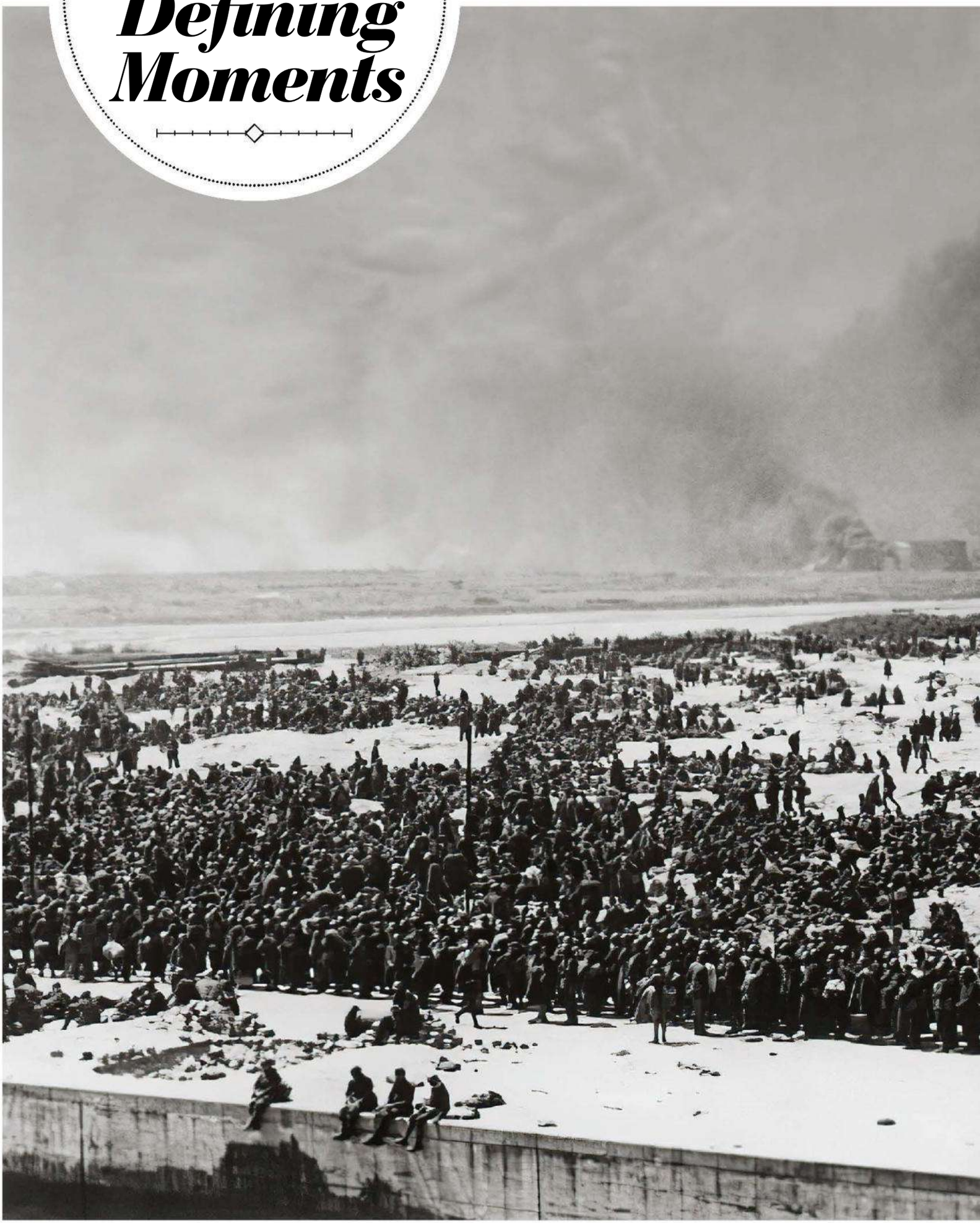

26 May 1940

DUNKIRK EVACUATIONS BEGIN

Operation Dynamo was launched on 26 May 1940 to evacuate 338,000 Allied troops from the beaches of Dunkirk, France after they had been surrounded by German forces during World War II. The 'Miracle of Dunkirk' was a critical turning point for the Allies and the evacuations took nine days. The operation was aided by British civilians who sailed their own boats across the Channel to rescue stranded soldiers and bring them home.

© Alamy

27 May 1993

UFFIZI DAMAGED IN BOMBING

A car bomb parked outside the Torre dei Pulci, a Medieval tower in Florence, Italy, detonated in an attack that killed five people and injured 48 more. The explosion destroyed the tower that at the time served as the seat of the Accademia dei Georgofili, a prestigious and historic educational institution. Florence's most famous art museum, the nearby Uffizi Gallery, was also damaged in the blast as can be seen in this image. The attack was believed to have been orchestrated by the Sicilian Mafia.

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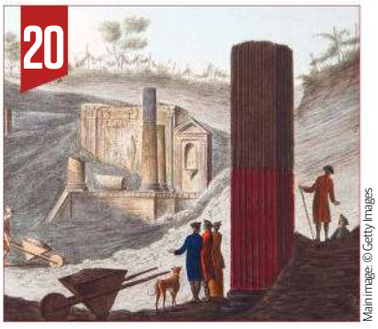


TAKING THE GRAND TOUR

Main image: © Getty Images

Written by Callum McKelvie, Emily Staniforth, Jonathan Gordon

Key Events

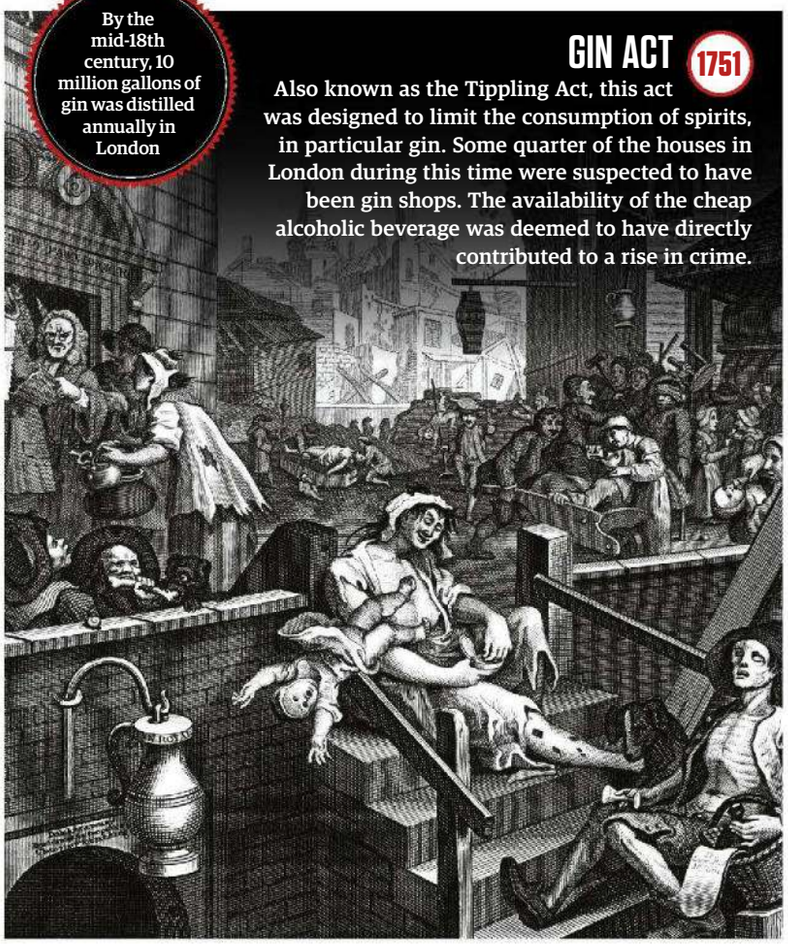
1714 GEORGE I ASCENDS TO THE THRONE

Queen Anne dies and the throne goes to George, the son of Sophia, Electress of Hanover. Despite the presence of numerous rivals for the throne, his ascendence marked the beginning of the Georgian era. George spoke only a little English and had to communicate with his ministers using French.

By the mid-18th century, 10 million gallons of gin was distilled annually in London

GIN ACT 1751

Also known as the Tippling Act, this act was designed to limit the consumption of spirits, in particular gin. Some quarter of the houses in London during this time were suspected to have been gin shops. The availability of the cheap alcoholic beverage was deemed to have directly contributed to a rise in crime.



THE BIRTH OF SATIRE C.1720

Thanks to the work of illustrators such as William Hogarth and writers like Jonathan Swift in his *A Modest Proposal*, political satire begins to become increasingly popular.

GEORGE II ASCENDS TO THE THRONE 1727

Following the death of George I and his burial in Hanover (the last British monarch to be buried abroad) George II succeeds him as King of Britain.

AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR ENDS 1783

Following a year of negotiations and countless bloody battles, the American War of Independence comes to an end with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on 3 September 1783.

1714 — 1720 — 1745 — 1751 — 1776

BRITAIN'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER 1721

Considered the first Prime Minister, Robert Walpole was a key figure in Georgian politics and oversees the Whigs becoming the dominant party in Britain.

GEORGE III ASCENDS TO THE THRONE 1760

Unlike his predecessor, who rarely left Hanover, George III viewed Britain as his priority and never visited his family home. However, he was plagued by mental and physical maladies.

FRANCE DECLARES WAR ON BRITAIN 1793

Following the revolution of 1789 and a series of successful military conquests, France declares war on Britain as part of the French Revolutionary Wars.

1720 SOUTH SEA BUBBLE CRISIS

The South Sea Company was a joint stock company that was intended to send enslaved persons to Spanish America. Through this it would reduce the national debt. Many investors were attracted to the company but due to little trade taking place the company stock collapsed. It has been referred to as one of the first major financial crises.

1745 THE JACOBITE RISING

Prince Charles Edward Stuart, also known as Bonnie Prince Charlie, launches a rebellion in an attempt to take the throne. The Jacobites, supporters of exiled Catholic King James VII of Scotland and II of England, had been a thorn in the side of the monarchy since 1688. The Battle of Culloden in 1746 effectively ended the uprising.

All images: © Getty Images

1805 THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

The British fleet commanded by Admiral Nelson defeats the French and Spanish forces off the Cape of Trafalgar, in a key engagement during the Napoleonic wars. Nelson, shot during the battle, dies of his injuries and immediately becomes a hero to the British public.

The combined firepower of the forces at the Battle of Waterloo was only 7.3% of the firepower witnessed at Trafalgar

NAPOLEON SEIZES POWER IN FRANCE 1799

Napoleon Bonaparte comes to power in France. Over the succeeding years his rule will lead him into direct conflict with Britain during the Napoleonic Wars.

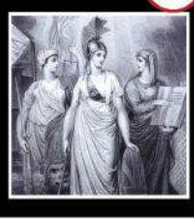
THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO 1815

A decisive battle that ended in victory for the coalition led by the Duke of Wellington and saw the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars and Napoleon's reign for good.

THE DEATH OF NAPOLEON 1821

Following the second Treaty of Paris, the Napoleonic wars were swiftly brought to an end. Napoleon is sent to the island of St Helena in exile, where he dies on 5 May 1821.

1805



ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE 1807

Following a campaign led by William Wilberforce and others, the slave trade is abolished in the British Empire. However, many colonial slaves were not freed until 1838.

1813

GEORGE IV ASSUMES CONTROL OF THE THRONE 1811

Due to his father's continuing illness, George IV becomes Prince Regent and rules in his place. In 1820, upon the death of George III, he is crowned king.

THE DEATH OF GEORGE IV 1830

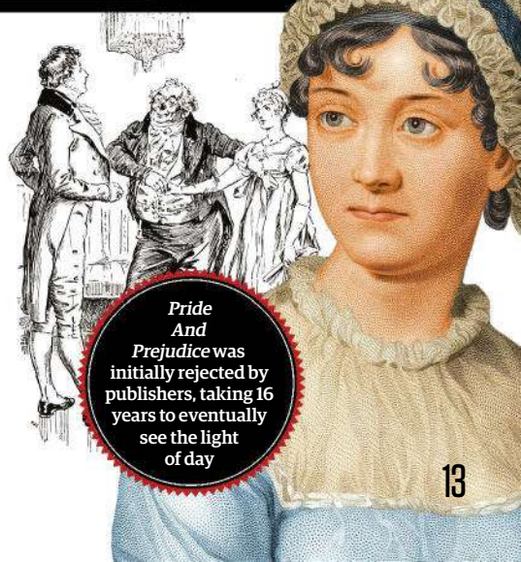
Age 67, George IV dies signalling the end of the Georgian era. William, Duke of Clarence, becomes the new King of England.

1776 DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Following George III's failure to respond to a petition outlining the grievances of those in the American Colonies and a gradual increase in tensions afterwards, on 4 July Continental Congress announces the separation of 13 colonies. War is declared on Britain.

1813 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE RELEASED

Jane Austen publishes her most famous novel of romance, *Pride And Prejudice*. One of six novels written during Austen's lifetime, it was published anonymously. Centuries after her death, her books remain popular and epitomise the romantic view of aristocratic Georgian life.



Pride And Prejudice was initially rejected by publishers, taking 16 years to eventually see the light of day

10 DOWNING STREET

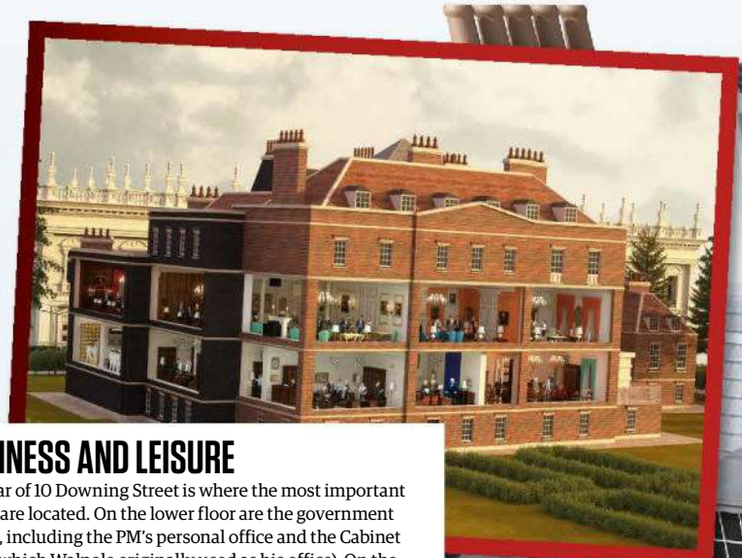
London
1682 – present

Since the Georgian era, 10 Downing Street has been the home/office of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (originally the First Lord of the Treasury). While there have been stretches where it was not used as a home, its location at the heart of Whitehall, the administrative centre of the government in London, has meant that it was almost always used as the office for the head of government and their cabinet. The first to take up residence at the address for this purpose was Sir Robert Walpole who was gifted the home by King George II in 1735, but he asked that it be made available to future Lords of the Treasury rather than be a personal property.

This location at the heart of Westminster has meant the land had great importance for many years prior to Downing Street even being constructed. Before the 1500s a brewery had stood in the area, but Henry VIII drew interest to the region of London when he built his Whitehall Palace there as an extension of York House (taken from Cardinal Wolsey) in 1530. That palace was destroyed by fire in 1698, but by then government buildings had already gathered around.

The first residential building on the site was Hampden House, which was leased to Sir Thomas Knyvet in 1581. He had been a favourite of Elizabeth I and it passed to his niece, Elizabeth Hampden who lived there through the reign of Charles I and into the reign of Charles II. Oliver Cromwell had been her nephew.

It was a former ally of Cromwell turned royalist, George Downing, who took over the lease from 1682 and built Downing Street, employing Sir Christopher Wren to design the houses. It took two years, but was constructed relatively cheaply, causing issues that would be dealt with for centuries to come.



BUSINESS AND LEISURE

The rear of 10 Downing Street is where the most important rooms are located. On the lower floor are the government offices, including the PM's personal office and the Cabinet room (which Walpole originally used as his office). On the upper floor is the residence of the PM and their family with the rear rooms acting as a series of drawing rooms. What are now the Terracotta and White drawing rooms were originally Lady Walpole's sitting room and the family dining room.

HORSE GUARDS

The rear of the extended 10 Downing Street looks out over Horse Guards Parade, the ceremonial parade ground of St James's Park where Trooping the Colour takes place for the British monarch's official birthday. The building with the clock tower on the edge of the parade ground is Horse Guards and is the official entrance to Buckingham Palace via St James's Park, designed by William Kent and built in the 18th century.

POOR FOUNDATIONS

While the location of Downing Street was deemed valuable thanks to its closeness to royal residences and government buildings, it was ultimately built on boggy ground and on the cheap. Major reconstruction work was done in 1960 that found the foundations were surprisingly shallow and made from rubble and timber, creating ideal conditions for dry rot. More than half of the structure needed to be renewed, taking three years at a cost of £1 million.

HOUSE MOUSER

Larry is likely one of the more universally liked residents of Downing Street since he has no particular political affiliations. The famous cat is often photographed around Downing Street, but he is not a pet. Larry is Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office; a mouser being a cat employed to deal with 10 Downing Street's rodent issues. Larry is only the third cat to carry this title, but mousers were used to protect government buildings at least as far back as 1514.

PUBLIC ACCESS

It was only in 1989 that gates were placed at the end of Downing Street, blocking public access to the road. Before then people could walk right up to the front door. Cars were only restricted in 1973. There had been numerous security concerns in the years prior, however, such as the Gordon Riots on 7 June 1780 when Lord North stepped outside to warn a gathering crowd to go home while he entertained guests.

ENVIRONMENTAL STYLING

The outer brickwork of Downing Street is nearly as iconic as its black front door, being a darkened grey colouring. However, the renovation work started on the building in 1960 revealed that the bricks were actually yellow, with the blackened exterior the result of about 200 years of air pollution. Now a black colourwash is used on the outer facade of the building to retain this colouring.

DECEPTIVE SIZE

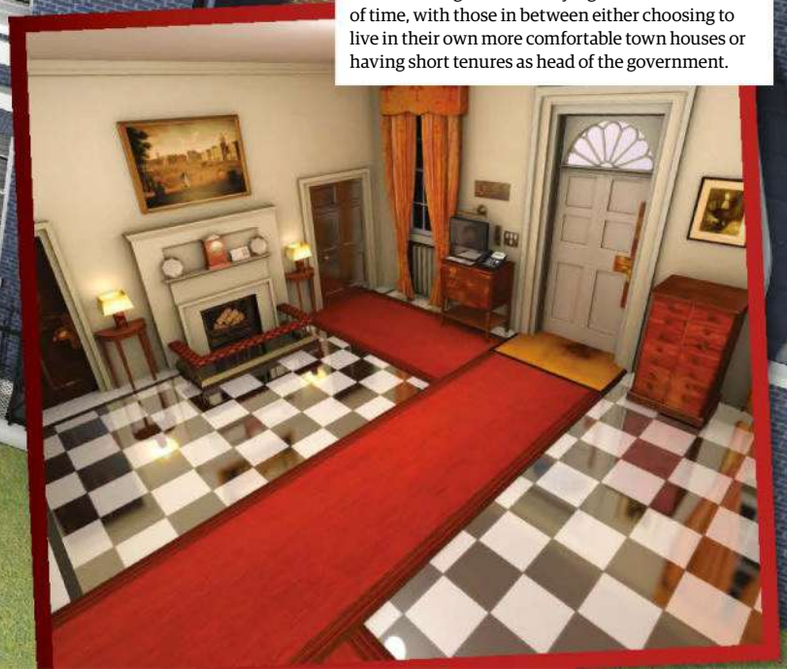
While 10 Downing Street was originally a rather modest building, once it became the official residence of the PM things changed. It was adjoined to a much grander building that sat behind it, previously owned by Charlotte Lee, Countess of Lichfield, Charles II's daughter, that overlooked Horse Guards. When George II made Number 10 the residence of his top politician, he also included that building and architect William Kent undertook the task of refurbishing both buildings to bring them together. Today, Number 10 also stretches west into Number 12 via corridors around Number 11.

STATE DINING ROOM

On the upper floor towards the front of the building is the State Dining Room, which was originally designed in the 1820s by John Soane who had worked on the Bank of England building (itself demolished in the 1920s). It was built above the vaulted stone kitchen on the floor below and seats 65 people. Prior to the building of a dedicated press room, this is also commonly where PMs would give their press conferences. Soane also designed the dining room in 11 Downing Street.

ENTRANCE

Just inside the famous door to Number 10 is the distinctive entrance hall to the building, the standout feature of which is the chequerboard flooring. This was added by Lord North who moved into the house in 1770 and remained until 1782. North had been the first PM after Walpole to live at 10 Downing Street for any significant amount of time, with those in between either choosing to live in their own more comfortable town houses or having short tenures as head of the government.



FAMOUS FRONT DOOR

The most identifiable feature of 10 Downing Street is its front door, but it actually started life as number five, getting renumbered in 1779. The lion's head knocker and the lamp that hangs above the door were both added during the tenure of Lord North who took up residence in 1770. While usually black, the door was briefly green during Herbert Asquith's time as Prime Minister from 1908 to 1916. Famously, the door does not lock from the outside and can only be opened from within.

Illustration by Adrian Mann

Anatomy

NAVAL OFFICER

Britain 1795

HAT

Hats were not made part of a naval officer's uniform until 1795. The majority of hats were made out of a combination of beaver hair and felt. Officers would have had a number of hats, for example a bad weather version was constructed out of felt with a form of glazed linen making it more waterproof.

WIG

As was the fashion at the time, officers wore wigs while on duty. However, there were two different types of wig worn, one for work and one for formal occasions. Due to the effect of the damp sea air, officers needed to use wig curlers to keep them in shape. When the wreck of the HMS Invincible was discovered, sunk in 1758, wig curlers were found onboard.

EPAULETTES

In 1795 a major overhaul of British Naval uniforms took place. At this point epaulettes became a standard part of the officers' wear. Prior to this, some officers chose to wear them unofficially. Epaulette comes from an outdated French term for 'shoulder'. Over time they developed to be an insignia of rank.

SABRE

According to the National Portrait Gallery, most officers would have been armed with a short sword or cutlass. The long sabres often shown in portraits were purely ceremonial in nature. These were often highly decorative and would have been worn via a sword belt under the waistcoat and across the chest.

MARINER'S CUFF

The cuff on the uniform is highly decorated with gold lace. This is a distinctive form of cuff known as the mariner's cuff. Throughout the 1750s and 1760s the mariner's cuff was incorporated into everyday fashion, primarily on men's suits and on the riding gear of women.

RED OR BLUE?

Naval uniforms were first introduced in 1748, at which point the decision was made by George II to make them blue and white as opposed to the army's signature 'red coats'. Purportedly, naval officers were not fond of these colours and only wore them during visits to the shore.

WOOL

Although based on everyday formal menswear, these jackets were made out of wool instead of the usual fine silks. Even when wet, wool has the ability to keep the wearer warm, making it a favourite of sailors. Additionally, the dried salt does not leave the material stiff and cumbersome as with other fabrics.

Illustration by Kevin McGivern

Historical Treasures

FIRST EDITION OF ROBINSON CRUSOE

Widely considered one of the first English novels, copies of this first edition are increasingly rare

England, 1719

Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, alongside works such as John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678), is considered one of the first examples of the English novel. Immensely popular upon its release, by the end of its first year of publication *Robinson Crusoe* had received no less than four editions.

The novel is written from the perspective of Robinson Crusoe, a young man who disobeys the wishes of his parents to travel the high seas. Crusoe becomes shipwrecked and the novel largely details his life on the uninhabited island. After 20 years Crusoe enrols an indigenous person (who he refers to as 'Man Friday') as his servant. Friday is an inherently problematic character and led to other writers such as Adrian Mitchell with his 1972 play *Man Friday* to address these elements. Defoe's novel is told from the perspective of the title character and indeed was originally attributed to him too.

It is suspected Defoe based the novel on the real-life story of Alexander Selkirk. A Scottish privateer, he ended up spending four years marooned on an uninhabited island in the South Pacific. In 1704, after a disagreement with his captain, the 28-year-old Selkirk demanded he leave him on the nearest island. His captain consented and it would be some time before Selkirk could return to England. Upon arrival his story became something of a sensation and Defoe would doubtless have been aware of Selkirk's adventures.

Due to the astounding success of *Robinson Crusoe*, a mere four months later Defoe published the sequel *The Farther Adventures Of Robinson Crusoe*. He also authored works such as *Moll Flanders* (1722) and *Roxana* (1724). Other authors sought to capitalise on Defoe's success and the 'Robinsonade' sub-genre was born. The most famous of these is arguably Johann Rudolf Wyss's 1812 novel, *The Swiss Family Robinson*. The story has been adapted and built upon numerous times in the centuries since its original publication.

It is said that the original work was read so often, that the copies fell apart from use. As such, over the centuries first-edition copies have become increasingly rare and now fetch high prices at auction houses.

FRONTISPIECE

The first edition features a striking illustration of Crusoe in his sheepskin jacket, holding two rifles and with a ship in the background. Although the engraving is credited to Clark and Pine, the actual artist remains unknown.

THE *FULL* TITLE

The true title of *Robinson Crusoe* as published is in fact: "The Life and Strange Surprizing Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, Of York, Mariner: Who lived Eight and Twenty Years, all alone in an uninhabited Island on the Coast of America, near the Mouth of the Great River of Oroonoque; Having been cast on Shore by Shipwreck, wherein all the Men perished but himself. With An Account how he was at last as strangely deliver'd by Pyrates". So much for spoilers!

TREASURE

Due to the relative scarcity of the First Edition, copies sell for vast amounts of money. In 2017, Christie's Auction House sold a copy, along with the sequel *The Farther Adventures Of Robinson Crusoe*, for £35,000.

BELOW
Author, journalist, pamphleteer and spy, Daniel Defoe

WHO WAS DANIEL DEFOE?

Defoe was a renowned journalist, who is suspected to have authored some 318 publications during his lifetime. He had a Presbyterian Dissenting upbringing and aligned himself with Scotland during turbulent times for the nation. He also worked as trader, pamphleteer and even as a spy for Chancellor of the Exchequer, Robert Harley.

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PIONEERING WOMEN

Groundbreaking writers, thinkers and innovators who fought for their voices to be heard

ELIZABETH RAFFALD
1733 – 1781

Professional housekeeper, cook, confectioner, teacher, author; Elizabeth Raffald could be described by many job titles, but the most fitting is probably entrepreneur. Having spent some years working around Yorkshire, Raffald made her name in Manchester where she ran a shop and cookery school. She published her first cookbook in 1769, said to be a favourite of Queen Victoria's in later years. She went on to run an inn, carriage business, post office and started the local trade directory.

JANE AUSTEN
1775 – 1817

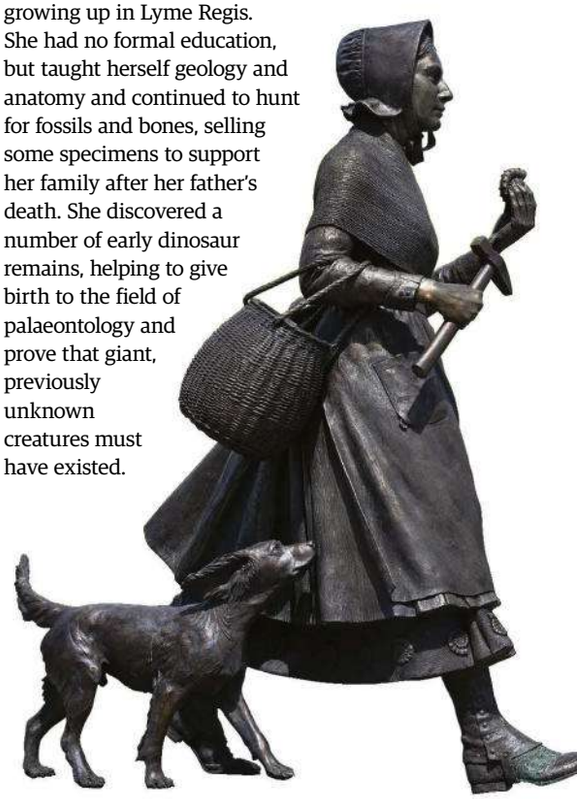
One of the most impactful and influential authors of her era, Austen, unlike the heroines of her stories, never married and committed herself to taking care of her mother and sister. Growing up around the manners and mores of middle-class Georgian life, she offered her wit and satirical takes on the characters she would have seen often in her first four books, published in those years while she also cared for her family. Two further books were published posthumously.

ELIZABETH HAMILTON
1756 – 1816

Born in Belfast to an Irish mother and Scottish father, Hamilton grew up with her aunt and uncle in Stirling, Scotland, after the death of her father while she was still a baby. While her formal education ended in her early teens, she continued to read, with a particular interest in moral philosophy. Becoming an author, she advocated for the education of women and for better conditions for working people of the Highlands, drawing on changes she was seeing south of the border in England.

MARY ANNING
1799 – 1847

Anning developed her love of fossil collecting from being her father's sidekick in the activity growing up in Lyme Regis. She had no formal education, but taught herself geology and anatomy and continued to hunt for fossils and bones, selling some specimens to support her family after her father's death. She discovered a number of early dinosaur remains, helping to give birth to the field of palaeontology and prove that giant, previously unknown creatures must have existed.



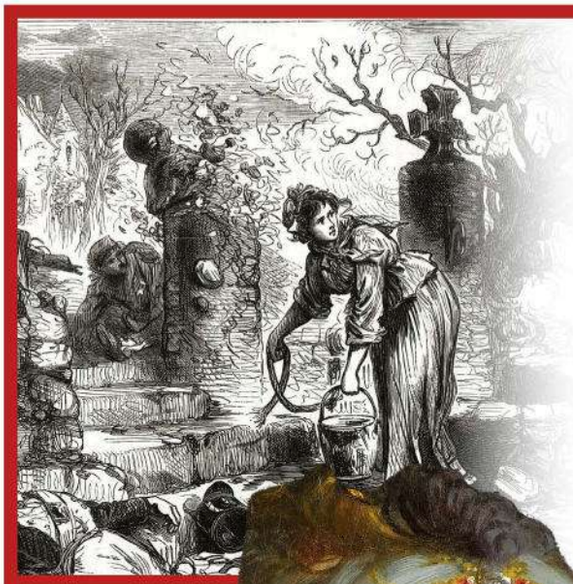
Frances Burney 1752 – 1840

Before Jane Austen, there was Frances 'Fanny' Burney, the daughter of two musicians who used her experience growing up around the creative set of London to pen journals, letters and ultimately a novel dissecting life in London. *Evelina* was published in 1778 anonymously as the 26-year-old Burney was nervous about how it would be received. This novel of manners proved to be a massive success with Burney revealing her identity and becoming a minor celebrity. More novels followed, but just as important have been her journals and letters, offering insightful chronicles of life in the Georgian era for women.

Burney spent five years working as second keeper of the robes to King George III and Queen Charlotte and kept a journal throughout

MARY SHELLEY
1797 – 1851

Shelley's works, most notably *Frankenstein*, were innovative new stories, drawing on classic, Gothic tales, but being informed by new innovations and an interest in scientific breakthroughs to form the basis of a new genre: science fiction. On top of her fiction, Shelley also turned her hand to biography and travel writing (something her mother had also done) while also editing and promoting the poems of her late husband, Percy Bysshe Shelley, who died in 1822.



Agnes Reston
1771 – 1856

Remembered as the 'Heroine of Matagorda', Agnes Reston was a Scottish wartime nurse who served in the Peninsular War. She found herself at war having joined her husband, James Reston, as he served in the 94th Regiment of Foot. In 1810, as his unit held a small fort of Matagorda, Reston tended to the wounded, carried sand bags, supplied ammunition to gunners and generally did every supporting job she could, while also looking after her four-year-old son. Army officers and Queen Victoria appealed for her to receive an annuity following her husband's death, but she saved only enough to pay for her own funeral and gave the rest to charity.

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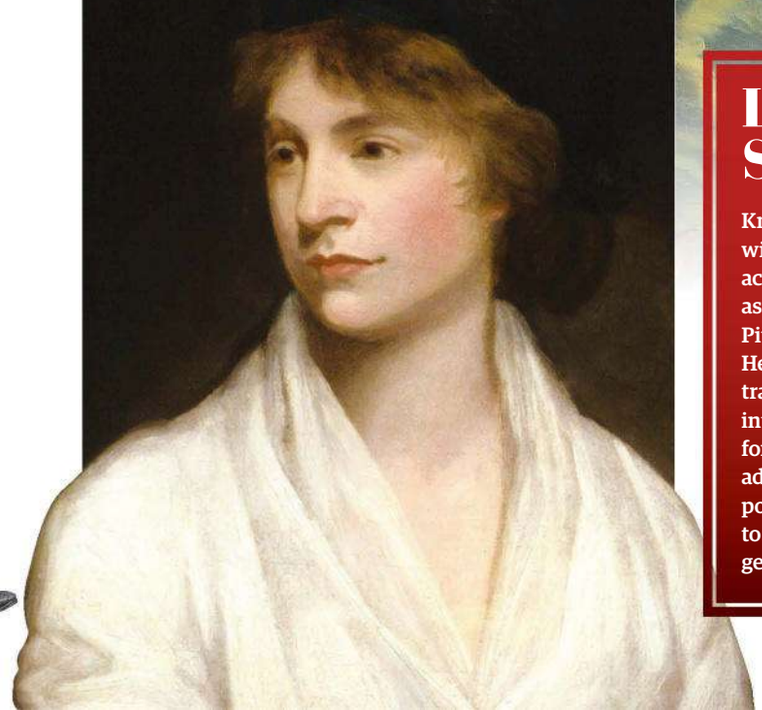
Mary Wollstonecraft
1759 – 1797

The groundbreaking author of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* in 1792, Wollstonecraft was a pioneer for women's rights and political engagement. She started out working as a governess to support her sisters, later turning to writing, including fiction, although it is her political writing and social commentary that is remembered best today. She travelled to France in 1792 to see the changes taking place after the revolution there and worked with radicals back in England to advocate social change. She was unable to impact much immediate change, but greatly influenced women's rights movements to follow.

Mary Wollstonecraft died shortly after giving birth to her daughter, who became a celebrated author in her own right, Mary Shelley

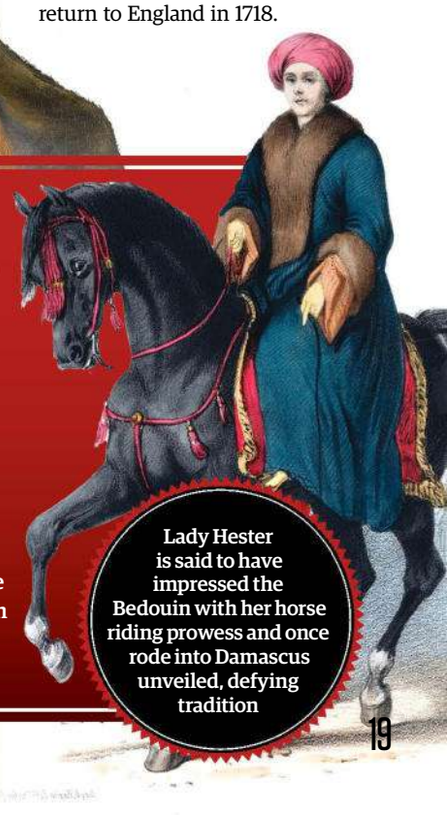


LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU 1689-1762

A celebrated woman of letters and traveller in her own time, Lady Mary's impact on the Georgian era goes beyond her writing. Raised in a wealthy and landed family, Lady Mary 'stole' her education by reading in the family library and had written two volumes of poetry and a short novel by the time she was 16. She eloped with Edward Wortley Montagu at 23 and joined him when he was made ambassador to the Ottoman Empire in 1716. In Constantinople she learnt about their use of inoculation against smallpox, to which she had lost her brother and narrowly survived herself. She promoted the technique on her return to England in 1718.

Lady Hester Stanhope 1776 – 1839

Known to the military men whom she impressed with her insight as 'The Amazon', Lady Hester had access to the halls of power for many years acting as hostess for her uncle, Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger. After Pitt died in 1806, Lady Hester sought excitement elsewhere, choosing to travel from 1810, around the Mediterranean and into the Middle East. Her willingness to stand up for herself, against local custom, actually won her admirers in the Ottoman Empire, gaining her more powerful friends. She was the first Western woman to see Palmyra, searched for hidden treasures and generally lived the life of a great adventurer.



Lady Hester is said to have impressed the Bedouin with her horse riding prowess and once rode into Damascus unveiled, defying tradition

Q&A

TAKING THE GRAND TOUR

Professor Roey Sweet reveals why young British men journeyed to Europe as an important part of their education

What was the Grand Tour? What kind of person embarked on it?

The Grand Tour is a term historians retrospectively apply to travel undertaken from the late 16th and early 17th century, and was not widely used by contemporaries until the middle of the 18th century. It really refers to an extended period of European travel usually associated with young men from the British upper-classes. On the tour they were expected to acquire taste, education, social experience and all the kinds of cultural capital that would make one qualified to be a member of the elite. Most of them would have had a travelling tutor whose role it was to provide education, a point of contact with the parents and to exercise restraint over the young man's behaviour. But they weren't the only people making tours of Europe at this time. People began to travel for health, to publish travel writing (which was a very popular genre of literature) and some simply to gain experience of other countries. In the second half of the 18th century there was increasing prosperity in England. So the social profile of who can afford to travel broadens to include middle-class professions such as merchants, professionals, lawyers, minor gentry and also families, including women. So it's not just about the education of elite young men.

How did the concept of the Grand Tour begin?

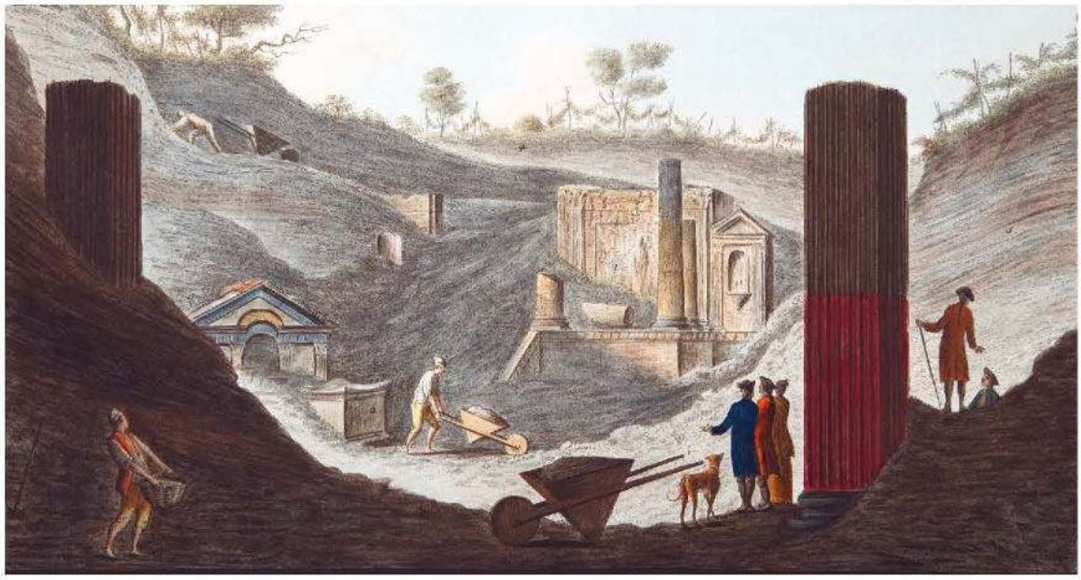
The idea of travelling in Europe has a long history. During the Medieval period, people would travel for trade and for pilgrimage (especially to Rome). You also begin to have the notion of young men travelling for education and going to different universities. When we get to the Renaissance, Italy becomes the centre of the recovery of classical antiquity and this creates a great deal of interest, particularly in Rome. In the 17th century wealthy English aristocrats, like the Earl of Arundel, travelled to Italy to collect antiquities, and architects like Inigo Jones went there to study. So we can see some of the origins of the Grand Tour in their journeys.

For anybody interested in antiquity and classical learning, Italy was becoming increasingly attractive as a destination. A period in Europe began to be seen as a way of completing your education and a demonstration of your ability to appreciate the finest art, architecture and sculpture. But although we conventionally think of Italy as being the grand destination, people didn't necessarily spend the most amount of time there. They might spend time in France, Switzerland or Germany.

What was the 'route' of the Grand Tour? What were some of the typical activities undertaken?

Generally, you began by crossing from Dover to Calais and then to Paris where you might spend a bit of time. Then you might go down through France and cross the Alps either by making the climb yourself or being carried over in a chair. Once in Italy you would visit major cities, such as Milan and Turin. In Turin there was a particularly famous Military

Roey Sweet is a historian at the University of Leicester. Her work focuses on British 18th century history, particularly urban and cultural history. She is the author of *Cities And The Grand Tour: The British In Italy* (2012) among numerous other publications.



BELOW
A depiction of the Temple of Isis as it was discovered at Pompeii, which became a popular destination

Photo courtesy of: Arts and Humanities Research Council

ABOVE
Pompeo Batoni was an artist highly regarded for his portraits of young men on the Grand Tour

Academy. The young British elites sought to gain masculine attributes while on the tour and so would often spend time at military academies, learning skills such as fencing. From here you would go towards Bologna or further down the coast. In a lot of these cities you would only spend a day or two but once in Florence, you'd make an extended stay. From here you would finally make your way to Rome.

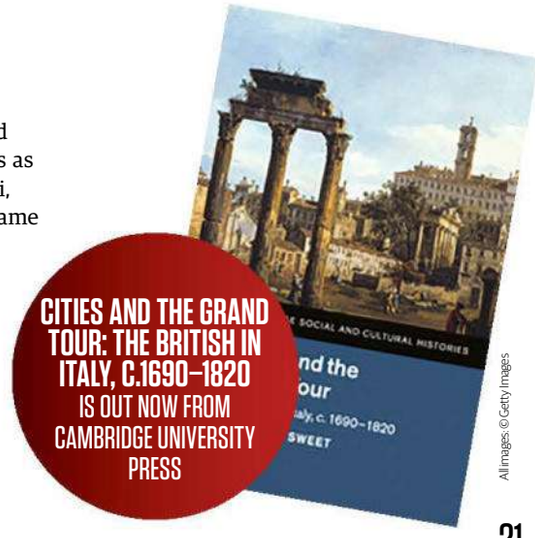
After the discovery of Pompeii and Herculaneum travellers increasingly then went south towards Naples. From here some went north and visited Venice, then possibly back over the Alps again towards Austria, making their way back via Vienna and Germany. Of course that's very general though; it all varied on the connections and money you had.

As you say, a variety of different groups travelled through Europe during this period. How did their experiences differ?

What's interesting is how the experiences of elite men differ from those who are from less affluent backgrounds. While they don't spend time at court circles, and stay in inns as opposed to grand houses and palazzi, they're still very much visiting the same sites. They view the same paintings, same buildings and travel to the same destination through France, through Germany. Again. So there's a common culture of travel. The experience of it will depend on your social status. With women, it's interesting because so much of what travellers were expected to know and learn from, particularly in Italy, was dependent on education. Some may have acquired some knowledge through reading and some may have been educated along the way, but most women didn't have the same knowledge of ancient history and classical literature. So what you often find is that women are much more likely to say they found a certain set of ruins a bit boring, because it's not part of their feminine identity to show that they know about antiquity in the way it was important for the men. However, women tend to be absolutely fascinated by Pompeii. They could relate because it displayed the private interior life of the Romans rather than the military or political side seen in other great archaeological sites. Women were intrigued because the domestic sphere is of course their sphere of activity.

How did the tradition of the Grand Tour come to an end?

Well, put simply, it doesn't. It evolves. In the early 19th century, the influence of romanticism and the rise of interest in other periods of history, particularly the Gothic and Anglo-Saxon past, means that there is no longer a focus on classical antiquity and other destinations become more important. So Germany becomes increasingly attractive, not least because in England there's rising interest in Anglo-Saxon heritage and the common Teutonic ancestry with the Germans, but also because of landscapes such as the Rhine. The Swiss Alps also become increasingly popular – for reasons of health (clean air) but also for the beauty and wildness of the scenery. The introduction of steam to travel means that short holidays are possible. So by the 19th century a more socially diverse group of people were travelling to Europe for shorter periods of time.



CITIES AND THE GRAND TOUR: THE BRITISH IN ITALY, C.1690–1820
IS OUT NOW FROM CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

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EXPERIENCING GEORGIAN ENGLAND

Five of the best historic buildings to visit around the UK

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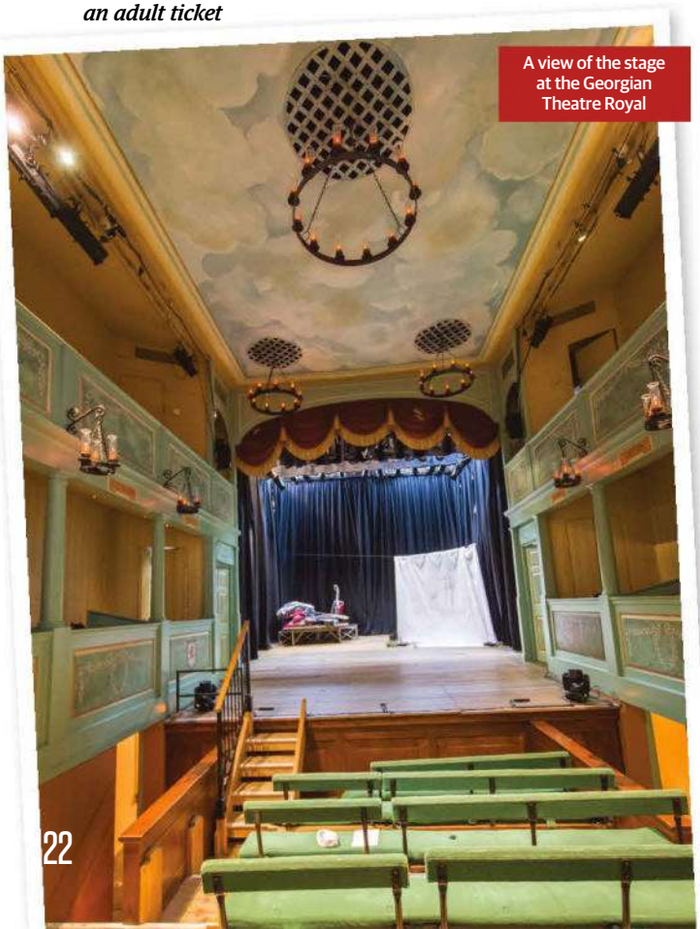
1 GEORGIAN THEATRE ROYAL
RICHMOND, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Theatre was a popular pastime in the Georgian era, and in the market town of Richmond a Georgian theatre survives in its original form. The Georgian Theatre Royal was first built in 1788 by actor Samuel Butler and served a community of theatregoers until 1848 when the venue ceased to put on performances. The theatre's rectangular seating arrangements are characteristic of Georgian theatre architecture and allowed the audience to have a clear and unobstructed view of the stage. The Georgian Theatre Royal has a small capacity of only 154 seats, which means that the audience are never far away from the action. Visitors to the theatre can now enjoy this intimate experience by watching a show staged at the venue, which reopened as a theatre in 1963. Tours are also available to guide guests through the history of the building and the world of Georgian theatre and include a look at the oldest piece of stage scenery in the UK.

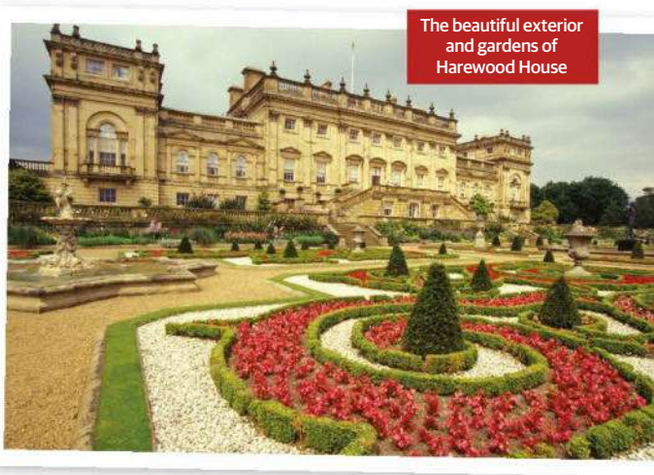
Theatre tours run from Monday to Saturday costing £8 for an adult ticket


A view of the stage at the Georgian Theatre Royal

2 HAREWOOD HOUSE
LEEDS, WEST YORKSHIRE

Between 1759 and 1771, Edwin Lascelles, the first Baron Harewood, built Harewood House on land purchased by his father, Henry, in 1738. The Lascelles family's wealth came directly from the slave trade, with Henry Lascelles having owned sugar plantations in Barbados that were passed down to his eldest son after his death. Edwin employed the popular Georgian architect John Carr to design and build the house, as he was known for his work constructing the increasingly in demand country retreats of the Georgian upper classes. Carr's original structure has remained largely the same since the time it was built and visitors can enjoy exploring Harewood House as it was originally intended to be seen, complete with an impressive art collection. Neoclassical designs by architect and designer Robert Adam dominate the interior and gardens landscaped by the famous Lancelot "Capability" Brown spread across Harewood's 1,000 acres. Harewood House is still home to the Lascelles family who describe the stunning place as "living history".

Harewood House and gardens are open 7 days a week


The beautiful exterior and gardens of Harewood House

A view of the Royal Crescent

3 THE ROYAL CRESCENT
BATH, SOMERSET

Designed in the Palladian style, the Royal Crescent in Bath is one of the most spectacular examples of Georgian architecture in the UK. Consisting of 30 terraced houses that overlook Royal Victoria Park, the Crescent was designed by architect John Wood the Younger and built from 1767 to 1774. Wood's father, John Wood the Elder, designed another of Bath's Georgian masterpieces, The Circus, which is connected to the Crescent by a short walk. While the majority of the Royal Crescent houses are private residences and can now only be admired from outside, No. 1 Royal Crescent, the first of the terraces to be built, has been restored to its former Georgian glory as it would have been at the time of the house's first resident. Henry Sandford lived (and died) in the house from 1776 to 1796, which now functions as a museum for visitors who might be curious about how the original inhabitants of the Crescent would have lived. As well as a number of rooms decorated and furnished in a typically Georgian style to reflect how the Sandfords would have lived, the No. 1 house allows visitors to explore servants' quarters from the period including a kitchen, servants' hall and housekeeper's room. No. 1 Royal Crescent provides an opportunity to experience Georgian living in a city setting.

The Royal Crescent can be visited all year round, but the museum is open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 5.30pm

Jane Austen's cottage in Chawton

4 JANE AUSTEN'S HOUSE
CHAWTON, HAMPSHIRE

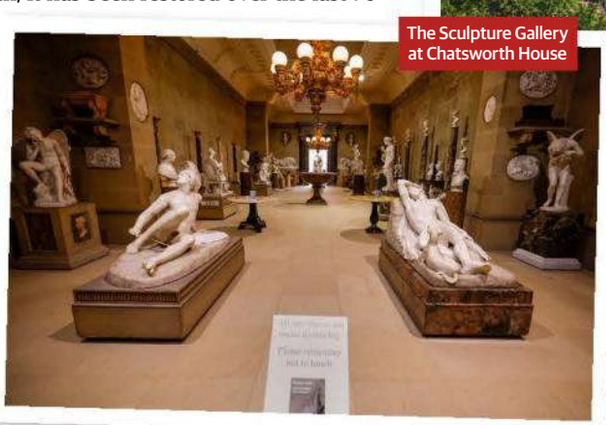
One of the most famous writers of the Georgian period, Jane Austen spent the last eight years of her life living in a cottage in the village of Chawton. The Chawton estate was inherited by Austen's brother, Edward, from family friends in 1809. Upon the inheritance of the estate, Edward gave one of the surrounding cottages to his mother and two sisters. It was in the Chawton house that Austen wrote all six of her novels. Austen lived in the house until she died in 1817, and despite the house being redesigned and redecorated by subsequent residents since her death, it has been restored over the last 70 years to appear as it did in Austen's time for visitors to explore. The Jane Austen Memorial Trust now runs the house, which is a Grade I listed building, as a museum that holds a collection of Austen first editions alongside other objects associated with the great writer, including her writing table.

Jane Austen's House is open to the public all week, with an average adult ticket costing £12.75

5 CHATSWORTH HOUSE
BAKEWELL, DERBYSHIRE

Chatsworth House in Derbyshire is one of the finest stately homes in the UK and is recognisable as the filming location of several movies and television shows, including period dramas *Pride And Prejudice* and *The Duchess*, and the *Peaky Blinders* series. While the house was initially built during the Elizabethan era, the estate was hugely modified during the Georgian period when the house was owned by five successive Dukes of Devonshire, all of whom were named William. On the instructions of William Cavendish, the 4th Duke of Devonshire (1720-1764), Capability Brown transformed the gardens of Chatsworth using some of his trademark designs. The biggest changes to the house during the Georgian era however were implemented by William Spencer Cavendish, the 6th Duke (1790-1858). An entire North Wing was added to the existing building by the architect Sir Jeffry Wyatville, with facilities to contain the Duke's vast collections of books and art, and rooms to entertain the guests that would descend on the house as party retreats in the country became more popular. The North Wing featured a dining room, theatre, Turkish bath, orangery and sculpture gallery. Chatsworth House was also home during this period to one of the most famous women of Georgian society, Georgiana Spencer Cavendish, who was an activist and socialite and the wife of the 5th Duke of Devonshire.

The house and garden are open from 10.30am to 4.30pm and 5pm respectively. An average ticket price for adult entry to both is £28.50



The Sculpture Gallery at Chatsworth House

Chatsworth House

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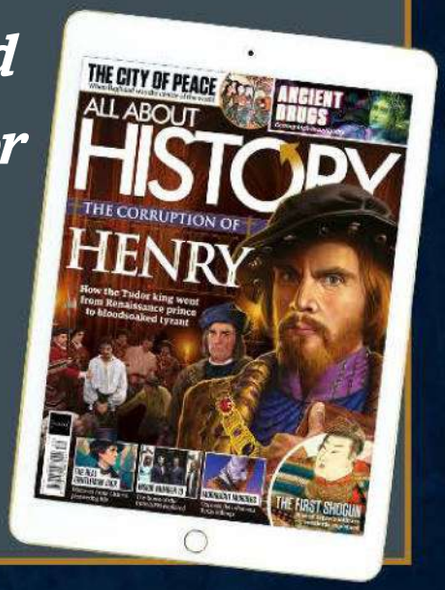

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THE CORRUPTION OF HENRY VIII

How the Tudor king went from Renaissance prince to bloodsoaked tyrant

Written by Emily Staniforth

EXPERT BIO

GLENN RICHARDSON

Glenn Richardson is a Professor of Early Modern History at St. Mary's University, London. He specialises in Tudor politics and is the author of *Wolsey* (Routledge Press, 2020).

Remembered as the monarch with six wives who broke away from the Catholic Church, Henry VIII's reputation has been cemented as a result of his outrageous behaviour and bloody-minded approach to kingship. At the beginning of his reign, Henry embodied the ideal of an enlightened Renaissance prince who presided over a majestic court and could have taken England into a new golden age after years of uncertainty. So how did it all go wrong, and why did Henry VIII become memorialised as England's most tyrannical monarch?

A Humanist Prince

When Henry VII won the Battle of Bosworth and became King of England in 1485, he needed to secure his throne. It was vitally important that his sons, who would succeed him, were raised to be capable and well-prepared to defend the Tudor throne and rule with authority when and if the time came. To achieve this, he was eager to provide the best education for Arthur (born 1486) and Henry (born 1491). As the ideals of the Italian Renaissance spread across the continent, a new way of learning gained traction. Humanism was a system of education pioneered by Italian academics and philosophers that revolved around the revival of ancient knowledge from Greece and Rome. It also stressed the importance of eloquent writing and rhetoric, which gave rise to a style of writing that came to be characteristic of the Renaissance period. In Dutch scholar Desiderius Erasmus, humanism found its leading light. He wrote in his work *The Education Of A Christian Prince* (1516) that "no commonwealth can be happy unless either philosophers are put at the helm, or those to whose lot the rule happens to have fallen embrace philosophy." Propounded by the emerging humanists at the time of Henry VII's reign, it was this belief in education as a vital tool of modern rulership that saw humanist educators employed ▶

Illustration by Joe Cummings

at European courts to teach the next generation of monarchs. In England, King Henry adopted this practice and ensured that his sons were educated to the highest humanist standards.

With Arthur born as the Tudor heir, he was separated from his younger siblings and raised in an environment where he could prepare for kingship. This meant being moved at the age of six to Ludlow Castle in Wales to begin his royal education. Young Henry, on the other hand, was educated while living with his mother and sisters at Eltham Palace. Though little is known about Henry's education as the spare son, it is apparent that he had access to some of Europe's leading humanists. His first tutor, the poet-laureate John Skelton, was credited by Erasmus with introducing humanism to England. Under Skelton's tutelage, Henry excelled in his classical studies and became a dedicated scholar. "He [studied] elements, at least, of what later became called humanities: languages, particularly Latin and Greek, and probably some history. He liked stories about Henry V, who was the great English King of the Hundred Years' War," says historian Glenn Richardson. "He would also have done bits of geography. As a man he had an interest in all kinds of maps and scientific instruments... and I think in general terms he was pretty well educated for a nobleman." Henry's talents did not go unnoticed and in 1499 he was visited by Erasmus when the scholar was staying in England as a guest of Tudor courtier Thomas More. Erasmus was impressed with the young prince's ability to converse in Latin and French and the initial meeting made such an impression on both Erasmus and Henry that the pair maintained a connection into Henry's adulthood.

"Henry is a very gregarious, fairly generous, kind-natured person at this point in his life"

ABOVE-LEFT Erasmus presents a tribute to Prince Henry on his visit with Thomas More

ABOVE Henry VII's first son, Arthur, was educated in how to prepare for kingship

RIGHT A portrait of young Henry by an unknown artist

To ensure that the young prince was a well-rounded individual, Henry's education also extended to sports. "He certainly had the training in the physical sports of hunting and jousting," explains Richardson. However, when disaster struck in 1502 and Henry's brother Arthur died, possibly of tuberculosis, Henry VII made sure that his second son, now the heir to the throne, avoided dangerous sporting pursuits. Instead, Prince Henry was only allowed to participate in sports in a performative capacity that would keep him out of harm's way.

In terms of gaining experience of governmental matters, Henry was not given the experience of ruling over his own court, unlike his brother. At Ludlow, Arthur had been given the opportunity to replicate his father's court, giving him hands-on experience of rulership. When Henry became the heir, he had to learn at his father's court with the help of the King's councillors.

His training continued even after the death of Henry VII in 1509 when the new King Henry VIII inherited his father's Council. "[The Council] see it as their job

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Did Henry VIII think of himself as a tyrant?

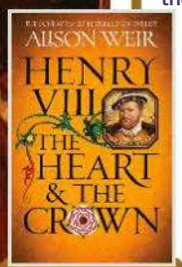
Best-selling historian, Alison Weir, discusses what the king, and others, may have thought of his reign by the end of his life

EXPERT BIO

ALISON WEIR

Alison Weir is an author and the best-selling female historian in the UK. She has written extensively on Henry VIII and the Tudor Queens in both fiction and non-fiction genres.

"I'm not sure that he did. He was usually pretty sure of himself, but he did acknowledge he had really bad faults and I think he was becoming reflective and he knew he didn't have long to live. One wonders whether he was looking at himself and taking stock. But his popularity endured, and therefore, I think he would have had a rather different view of himself than the way we think of him today. And in terms of today I think he's had bad press in many ways. Yes, he could be a monster. I'm not trying to say he wasn't, but everything he did was legal and covered by law, even if he had to pass the laws to make it legal – which happened in the case of Lady Rochford, who was arrested with Catherine Howard and had literally fallen into a frenzy, which means you've more or less gone insane. An act was passed enabling the king to execute an insane person – but it was legal. Everything was legal and above board. There's no question about Henry in that respect so, because he acted within the law, he wasn't a tyrant in the strict sense. His popularity endured and he appealed to something in the English national consciousness. His memory was revered by his children who he had hurt in so many ways. They seemed to have had a rather different view of him than we do. Of course, the Catholic faction didn't like him at all. [After he died] I think people were shell shocked because he'd been on the throne for 37 years. He was mourned and all his children harked back to him. I'm researching Mary I at the moment and she did nothing but refer back to her father, and he treated her really badly by our standards."



HENRY VIII: THE HEART & THE CROWN (HEADLINE REVIEW, 2023), THE SECOND IN A NEW TRIO OF NOVELS BY ALISON WEIR, IS AVAILABLE TO BUY NOW.

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to continue the training of this young king," says Richardson. "Henry is a very gregarious, fairly generous, kind-natured person at this point in his life and it's the Council's duty to keep an eye on him so he begins his reign very much still in training for kingship."

ABOVE A portrait of Catherine of Aragon

The Young King

Armed with an education fit for a Renaissance monarch, Henry VIII should have been well-equipped to handle kingship. One of the first decisions Henry made when he came to the throne was to marry his brother's widow, the Spanish princess Catherine of Aragon.

BELOW The Battle of the Spurs in 1513 saw Henry fight (and win) against the French

"Foreboding glimpses of Henry VIII's ruthlessness showed themselves early on"

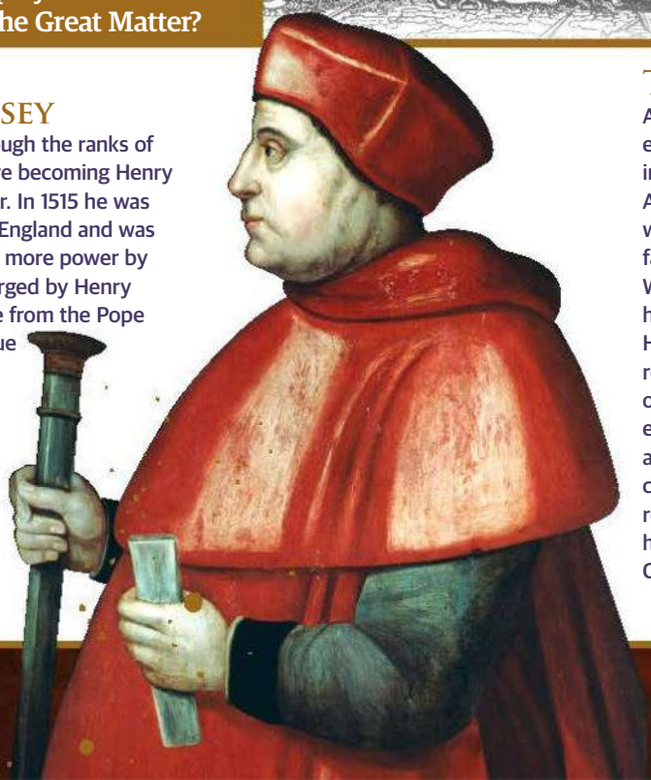
This match had been on the cards for several years, with the pair being betrothed shortly after Arthur's death. Despite a special dispensation being granted by the Pope to allow the marriage of Prince Henry to his sister-in-law, a tense relationship developed between Henry VII and Ferdinand of Aragon, Catherine's father, and the engagement was called off. When Henry VIII became king it was vital that he choose a bride and as a young man, he was quite the catch. Handsome, charming and at just over six feet tall he towered over the average Tudor man. He was lean, strong and athletic, and thanks to his father's frugality, extremely rich. Henry could have chosen any wife he pleased and while Catherine was a beautiful woman, she was also six years older than him, making the choice an unusual one. Henry's decision to remain faithful in his promise to Catherine can be put down to the fact that he genuinely loved her. A commitment to the chivalric ideals of early modern European kingship may also have

Influencers of Henry VIII

Who were the main players at the Tudor court at the time of the Great Matter?

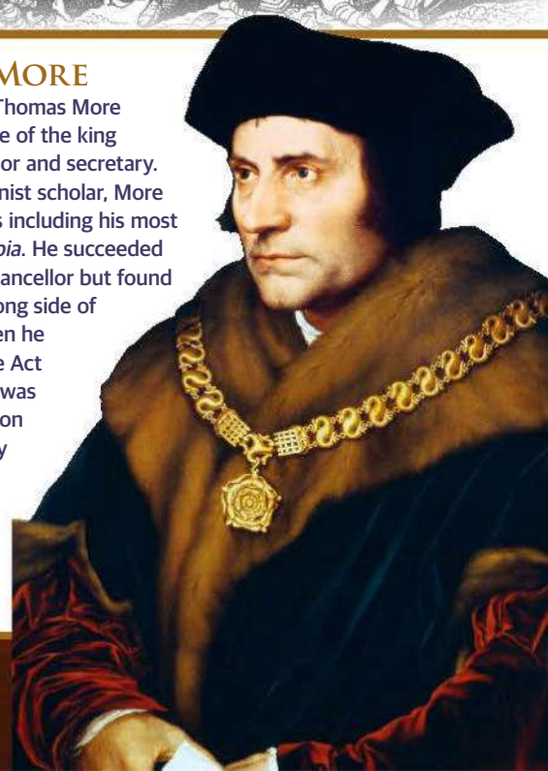
Cardinal Thomas Wolsey

Thomas Wolsey rose through the ranks of the Catholic Church before becoming Henry VIII's most trusted advisor. In 1515 he was made Lord Chancellor of England and was gradually given more and more power by the king. Wolsey was charged by Henry with obtaining his divorce from the Pope but, already unpopular due to the vast wealth he had acquired, his influence dwindled when he was unsuccessful in his task. He was eventually arrested for treason in 1530 and died while on the way to face trial.



Thomas More

A trained lawyer, Thomas More entered the service of the king in 1517 as his advisor and secretary. Also a great humanist scholar, More wrote many works including his most famous piece *Utopia*. He succeeded Wolsey as Lord Chancellor but found himself on the wrong side of Henry in 1534 when he refused to sign the Act of Supremacy. He was executed for treason and was eventually canonised in recognition of his defence of Catholicism.



played a part in his decision, but it is clear that Henry took his betrothal to Catherine seriously. Their marriage provided the new king with a highly educated, intelligent and politically astute queen who matched his personality and intellect well.

Aside from his marriage, Henry's priorities in the first few years of his reign were heavily influenced by his desire to emulate his idol, Henry V, whose exploits in the Hundred Years' War he had grown up reading about. In 1513, he headed an army and crossed the Channel in his first foray into war. Successfully capturing the towns of Thérouanne and Tournai, Henry marked the beginning of a long rivalry between England and France that would span across his entire 37-year reign. He had begun to prove himself, not just as an intelligent monarch but as a warrior king.

In great contrast to his father's court, Henry presided over a magnificent and extravagant establishment. He patronised artists, poets and scholars, committed to building works like St. James's Palace, and spent money on lavish displays of wealth and power. The people of England celebrated the accession of their new and virile young king. However, foreboding glimpses of Henry's ruthlessness showed themselves early on. Just days after his father's death, the new king had the chief administrators of Henry VII's reign arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London. Richard Empson and Edmund Dudley were both charged with treason and accused of assembling forces to "hold, guide and govern the king and his Council". Most historians agree that the charges were fabricated and that Henry wanted someone to blame for his father's unpopular financial policies. By arresting Empson and Dudley he could be seen to be distancing himself from the unlikeable qualities of his predecessor. In his quest to be popular with his subjects, Henry ordered the execution of the pair in 1510, showing that he was willing to do what he needed to maintain his authority.

ABOVE-INSET King Henry VII with Edmund Dudley (right) and Richard Empson (left)

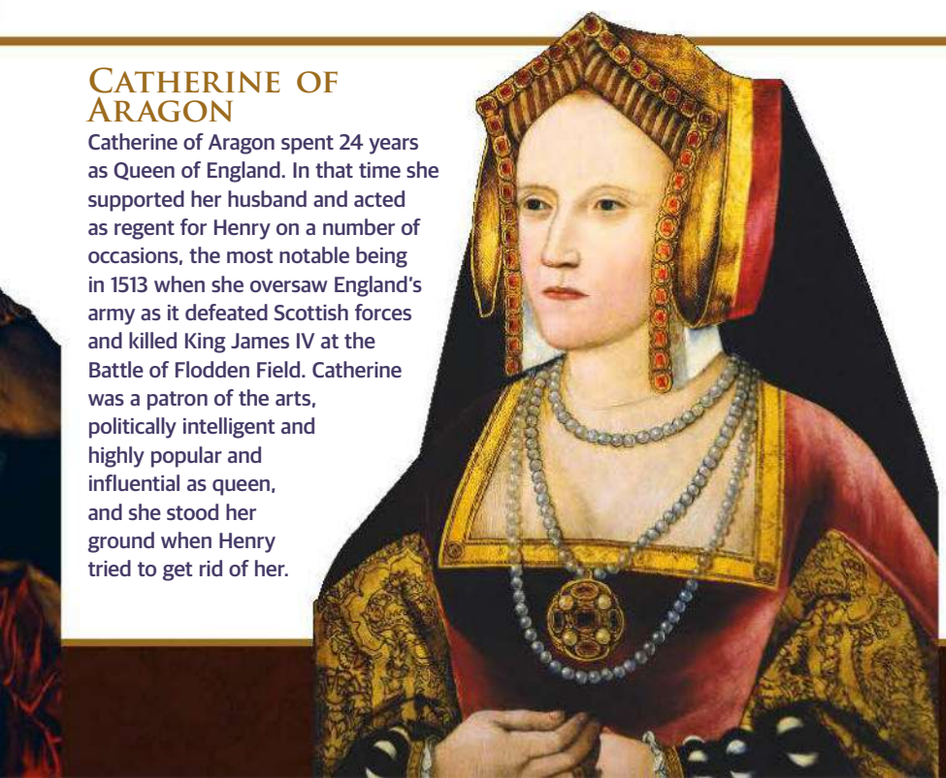
ABOVE Martin Luther nails the *Ninety-five Theses* to a Wittenberg church door

Defender of the Faith

While Henry is remembered as the king who severed England's ties with Rome, it is often forgotten that at the beginning of his reign he had a strong and healthy relationship with the papacy. When Martin Luther nailed the *Ninety-five Theses* to a church door at Wittenberg in October

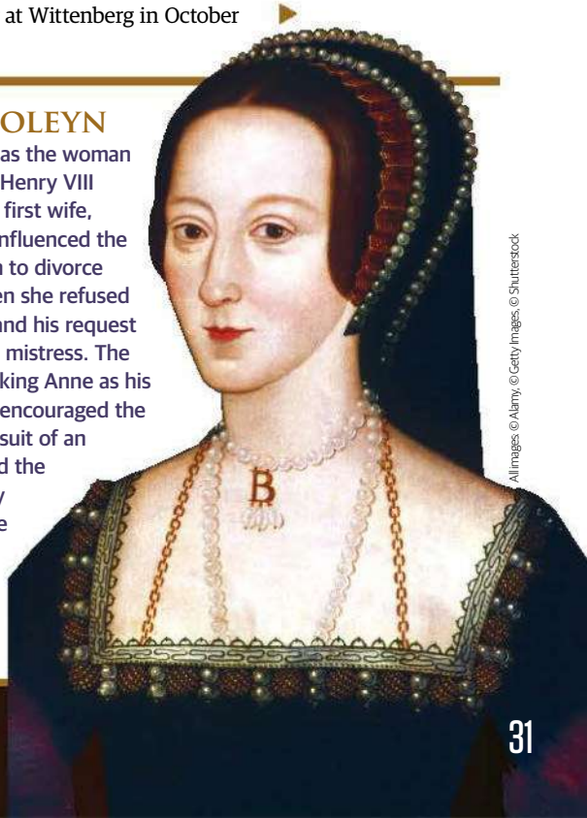
Catherine of Aragon

Catherine of Aragon spent 24 years as Queen of England. In that time she supported her husband and acted as regent for Henry on a number of occasions, the most notable being in 1513 when she oversaw England's army as it defeated Scottish forces and killed King James IV at the Battle of Flodden Field. Catherine was a patron of the arts, politically intelligent and highly popular and influential as queen, and she stood her ground when Henry tried to get rid of her.



Anne Boleyn

Remembered as the woman who tempted Henry VIII away from his first wife, Anne Boleyn influenced the king's decision to divorce Catherine when she refused his advances and his request to become his mistress. The prospect of taking Anne as his wife certainly encouraged the king in his pursuit of an annulment and the pair eventually married before the divorce had been granted.



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1517, the wheels were set in motion for the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Luther's doctrine spoke out against the Church asking for payment, known as 'indulgences', in return for the forgiveness of sins. With the papacy thrown into a state of crisis, it was Henry who jumped to the Catholic Church's defence.

Possibly with the help of his closest advisors, Cardinal Wolsey and Thomas More, Henry drew upon his humanist education and literary ability to pen *Assertio Septem Sacramentorum* (Defence of the Seven Sacraments), waging a war of words upon Martin Luther when it was published in 1521. In his treatise, Henry argued for papal supremacy within the Church and the defence of Catholic religious practices, while disparaging not just Luther's beliefs but also his character, describing him as a serpent and a disease, and also comparing him to Cerberus, the three-headed canine guardian of Hell. Having had the work presented and dedicated to Pope Leo X before its publication, Henry was rewarded for his support and granted the title Defender of the Faith.

As a staunch Catholic who was willing to publicly champion the papacy, it must have seemed unlikely that Henry's relationship with Rome would ever sour.

The Great Matter

With everything going so well for Henry, why do we not remember him as the magnificent king he was at the beginning of his reign? Why did it all unravel? There is one very simple reason – Henry needed a legitimate son. The matter of succession became pressing as it started to look likely that Catherine would not give him the son he desperately desired.

> "To avoid potential threats to the Tudor dynasty he needed to produce a male heir"

When Henry had come to the throne, he had been the first king to inherit the crown peacefully in nearly 100 years and to avoid potential threats to the Tudor dynasty he needed to produce a male heir. "It's beginning to worry [Henry] that they should have had more children by now," explains Richardson. "Henry is really worried about the future because being a patriarchal monarch of the 16th century, he doesn't really believe that women are capable, ideally, of ruling." His marriage to Catherine had, by the late 1520s, produced only one child. Princess Mary, born in 1516, was Henry's sole legitimate child with Catherine having given birth to at least six children, all of whom were stillborn or had died in early infancy. Henry began to consider what he must do to secure his dynasty.

ABOVE A portrait of Henry Fitzroy, the illegitimate son of Henry VIII and Elizabeth Blount

RIGHT Catherine of Aragon defending herself against Henry's efforts to annul their marriage

RIGHT-INSET Princess Mary was the only child of Henry and Catherine's to survive, leaving Henry desperate for a male heir

One possible solution to Henry's conundrum was to make his illegitimate son, Henry Fitzroy, the heir to his throne. However, as a bastard, Fitzroy was not the most stable choice and would have put the Tudor Crown at an increased risk from potential usurpers. A second shocking option was considered, which involved the betrothal of Fitzroy to his daughter Mary. With neither of these options deemed viable, the older wife that Henry had been so determined to marry at the beginning of his reign became his greatest obstacle, and he could only see one solution. In 1527, Henry asked Pope Clement VII to annul his marriage on the grounds that there was a possibility that Catherine had consummated her first marriage to Arthur. And if this was true, then the pair should never have been allowed to marry in the first place. "There was talk at the time that it was tricky to get the dispensation to allow a brother of the deceased to marry that brother's widow. Even at the time people wondered whether it was a good idea, but [the Pope] gave the dispensation to allow it to go ahead, so that's what Catherine relied on. That and the fact she maintained to her death, even in public court, that she had married Henry as a virgin," says Richardson.

Henry argued that they had not been able to have a son as a punishment

An Injured King

Did a jousting accident change Henry's personality?

Henry VIII was a keen jouster who loved to display his talents and athleticism. In 1524 though, the dangers of the sport caught up with him when he was badly injured in a competition with Charles Brandon, the Duke of Suffolk. This experience did little to hamper the king's desire to joust and 12 years later another catastrophe may have changed the course of Henry's life and English history.

While taking part in a jousting event on 24 January 1536, Henry VIII was involved in a devastating accident. Falling from his steed, the 44-year-old king became trapped under the horse. It is believed that Henry may have been unconscious for up to two hours after he hit his head in the fall, with some historians speculating that a brain injury sustained in this accident may have resulted in a dramatic change in his personality. The king's violent outbursts of anger have been put down to suspected brain damage by those who believe in this theory, and his decision to execute Anne Boleyn only a few months after the accident of 1536 can be seen to evidence this argument. However, Alison Weir refutes this: "There's this very weird theory, based on a very poor source, that he had a fall from his horse in 1536 and he suffered brain damage and his character changed. No, it did not change. It was a gradual change. You can see it coming through those years of the Great Matter, as the divorce was called, and so I don't believe that Henry's character changed suddenly."

Whether or not the King did have brain damage, he certainly sustained other injuries while jousting, including severe damage to his leg that caused recurring ulcers throughout the rest of his life. It is not hard to see how a once glorious sportsman could have become embittered and frustrated with his weak health, and how these feelings may have presented themselves in other matters.

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from God for the marriage, as the Book of Leviticus states that "if a man shall take his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing... they shall be childless." Whether Henry genuinely believed this, or whether he was using the convenient biblical text to obtain his divorce, is a matter of great debate. "I think [Henry] probably saw an opportunity. He was a great amateur theologian, he had a very fertile imagination and was a reasonably intelligent guy, so he would have worked out quite quickly that there was an argument, at least, that could be made," says Richardson. Despite Henry's, and his advisor Wolsey's, reasoning, Pope Clement stood his ground and refused the annulment. "[Henry's] sense of his kingship was very strong and he couldn't understand why such a good boy like him, who had done everything for the papacy, couldn't get this Pope to give him what he saw as his due, and why the papacy was somehow preventing

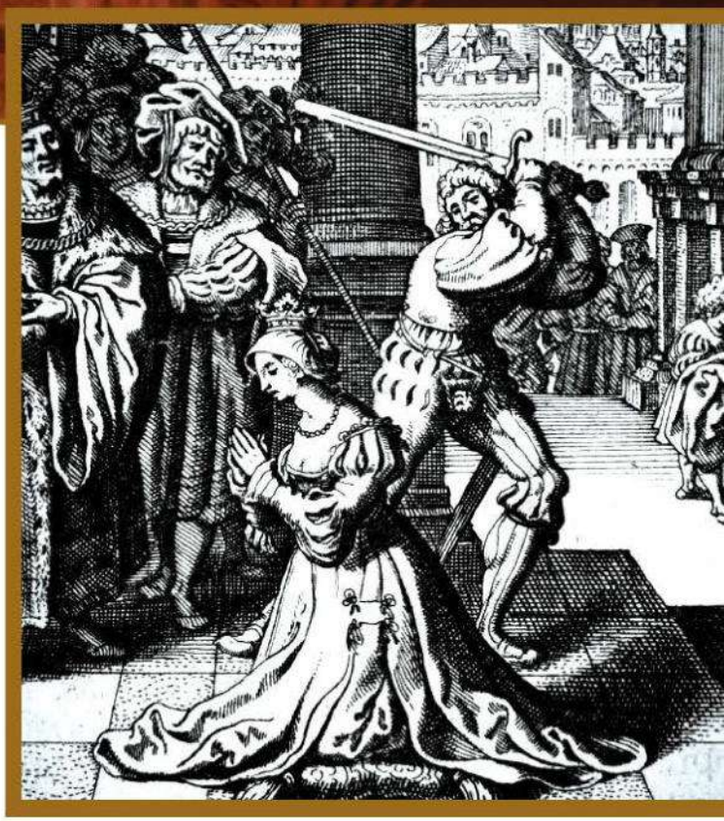
"Henry had approximately 57,000 people executed"

him from being the king he really needed to be," explains Richardson.

It is also important to remember that Henry's dealings with the Pope over 'The Great Matter' were not completely transparent. In 1526, Henry had become infatuated with the young and beautiful Anne Boleyn. Boleyn had refused to become Henry's mistress, making Henry intent on marrying her. Getting nowhere with the divorce, Henry made the radical decision to dismiss Catherine from his court in 1531 and in January 1533 he entered into a bigamous marriage with Boleyn, bypassing the Pope entirely. His first marriage was annulled by the Archbishop of Canterbury five months later. Henry's patience with Rome had run out, and he made the monumental decision to dissolve England's ties with the Catholic Church and establish his own Church of England, of which he was the Supreme Head. The ramifications of Henry's intense desire for a son had now altered the course of England's religious status forever.

Henry the Tyrant

From this point onwards, the chivalrous and charming King Henry seemingly ceased to exist. He became increasingly paranoid about threats to his authority and about having a son, particularly as his new wife seemed to be doomed to repeat the sins of her predecessor and produce just one healthy female child. In his efforts to secure the dynasty, Henry blamed those who he believed were standing in his way. After his failure to obtain the King's divorce from the Pope, Cardinal Wolsey was stripped of his titles and later arrested on charges of treason, despite him being Henry's most loyal servant, friend and advisor. It is likely that, if Wolsey had not died from an illness on his way to face the king after his arrest, he would have also met a gruesome end at the hands of Henry's executioner.



ABOVE The execution of Anne Boleyn, in 1536

RIGHT A painting of Thomas More saying goodbye to his daughter as he is taken to his execution

Statesman and writer Thomas More, Henry's closest advisor, discussed tyranny in his work the *History Of King Richard III* in allusion to Henry's increasingly ruthless behaviour as he began to observe his potential for despotism. More was sentenced to death after refusing to sign the Act of Supremacy that recognised Henry as the head of the Church of England and was executed in 1535. Henry's penchant for executing his political advisors did not end there, with Thomas Cromwell (More's successor as Henry's right-hand man) put to death in 1540. It is estimated that during his reign, Henry had approximately 57,000 people executed.

The most infamous examples of Henry's tyranny were the executions of his wives Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, both of whom were accused of adultery and treason. Howard may have been as young as 18 when she died at Tower Hill. Whether or not they were guilty, Henry showed little mercy to the women he had made his queens. A far cry from the chivalrous young prince who had insisted on marrying Catherine of Aragon at the beginning of his reign, Henry used and abused many women at his court including, but not limited to, his six unfortunate wives.

In terms of his religious policy, he spent much of his reign after the Break

LEFT An allegorical engraving of Henry VIII trampling on Pope Clement VII

with Rome persecuting those, both noblemen and commoners, who dared to disagree with his supremacy over the Church. He tore down monasteries and abbeys, using their riches to line his pockets and fund his foreign wars. By the end of his reign, the educated and cultured golden Renaissance prince had become an overweight, ill, possibly impotent, overly suspicious, old king who had squandered the riches he had inherited and destroyed the religious stability of his realm.

ABOVE A portrait of Henry VIII by Hans Holbein the Younger

A Paradoxical Reign

By the time of Henry's death in 1547, he likely died believing he had succeeded in securing the line of succession. Prince Edward had been born in 1537 to Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour, and though he was only nine years old at the time of his father's death, he was a clear successor. It was a cruel twist of fate that would see Henry's longed-for son succumb to illness and die as a teenager with no children of his own.

At the time of his death, Henry was remembered by the English people fondly who, for a time, referred to him as Henry the Great, according to Richardson. This would probably have been due to his status as the current king's deceased father and the length of Henry's reign, which at 37 years was considerably longer than most other monarchs of this period. Also, when compared with the bloody religious turmoil that the country was plunged into with the subsequent reigns of his children, Henry's religious policies may have been looked upon with rose-tinted glasses.

However, this does not mean that the tyranny of Henry's reign was forgotten. In the centuries since his death, Henry's often despicable reign has seen him remembered as arguably the most notorious of England's kings. The paradox of Henry VIII was that a highly intelligent, equipped and chivalrous king so quickly became a paranoid despot who was characterised by his paranoia, his desire to secure the Tudor dynasty, and his need to be respected and revered. His megalomaniac tendencies poisoned his rule and corrupted the legacy he could have had as an impressive Renaissance king.

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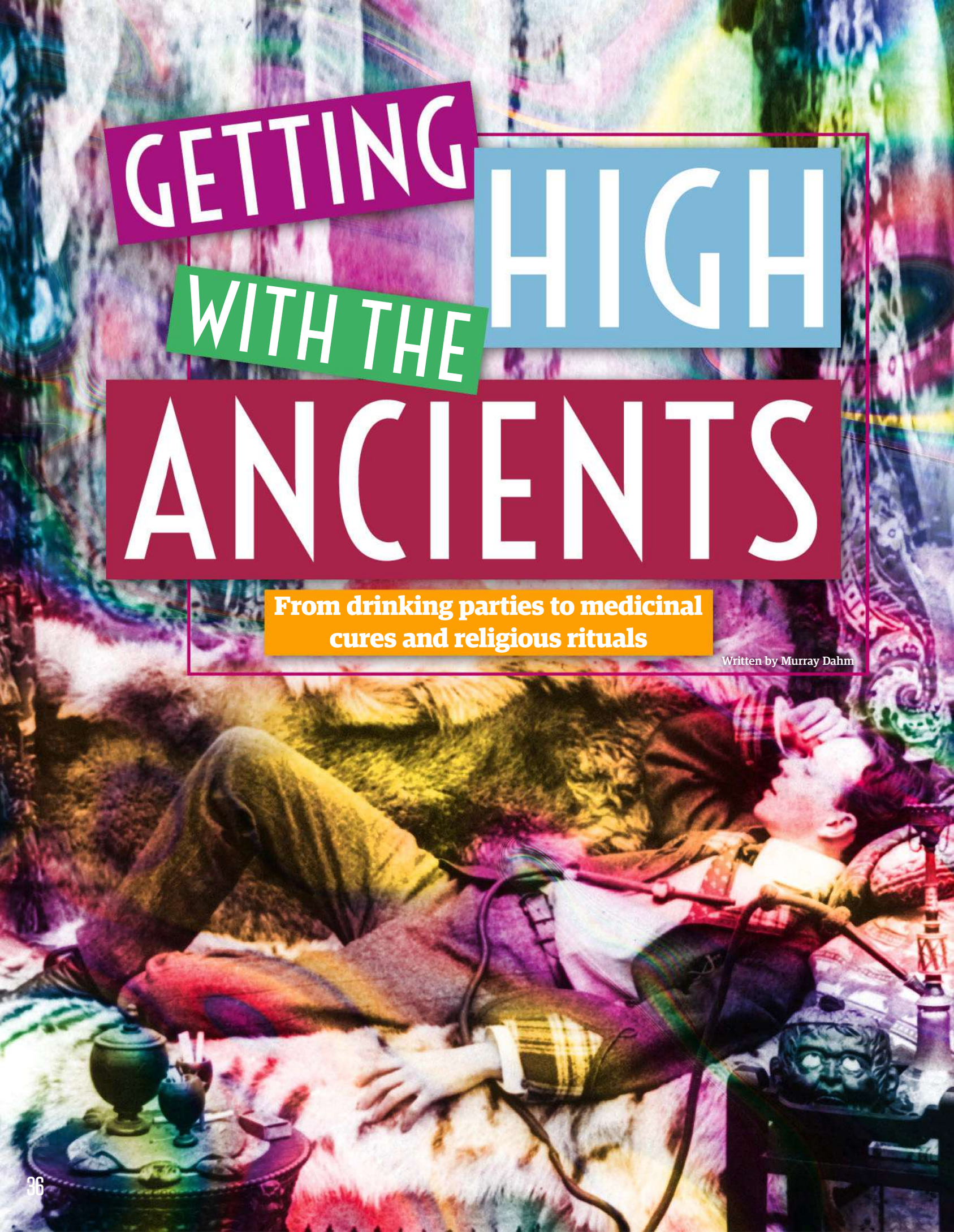
GETTING HIGH WITH THE ANCIENTS

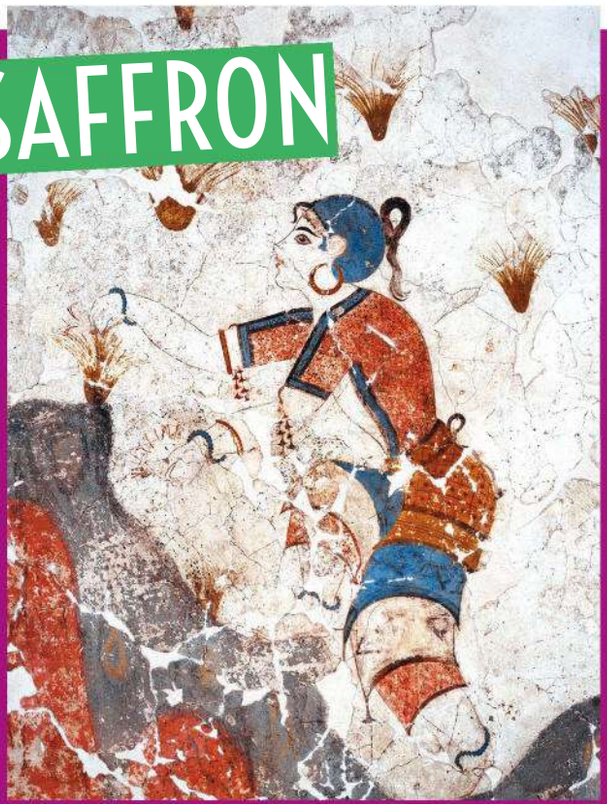
From drinking parties to medicinal cures and religious rituals

Written by Murray Dahm



Ancient societies from Mesopotamia to Mesoamerica, Greece to Egypt, Rome to China cultivated drugs for rituals and personal use. Many of these substances, such as various alcoholic beverages, cannabis and opium remain in use for many of the same purposes. Others, such as wormwood, blue lilies and saffron are much less common today. In some cases, how these substances were grown, cultivated and processed has remained largely unchanged; in others, however, the uses and processes may surprise us. Some ancient drugs remain mysterious or even extinct, as you'll discover here.

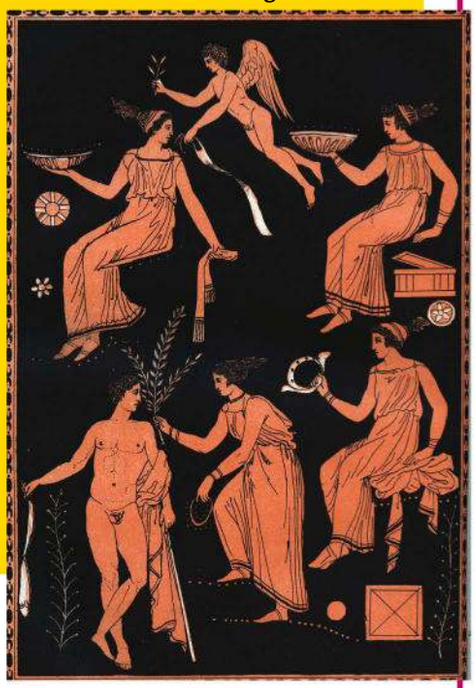
SAFFRON



On the island of Santorini, the saffron crocus (*crocus sativus*) was cultivated (pictured in a fresco from Akrotiri), not only for the modern spice saffron produced from its stigma and styles, but also for its health benefits and mood enhancing properties. From Minos on Crete we have another fresco of saffron crocuses being harvested by girls and trained monkeys, and another fresco shows saffron being used to treat a bleeding foot. It was reputed to be a cure for 90 different ailments and its importance may be suggested by the etymology of the hero Crocus who embarked on a perilous journey to harvest the flower, his blood said to have been turned into the saffron flower by the gods. Another version is that the passion of his love for the nymph Smilax is reflected in the colour of the stigma. The flowers contain alkaloids and other compounds that might suggest its uses. It was utilised as a pigment in cosmetics and dyeing, in perfumes and also as a deodoriser. Later, Cleopatra VII of Egypt used saffron as a cosmetic (and as a bath additive) and also as an aphrodisiac (a possible use suggested in the etymology too). In Egypt it was used for gastrointestinal ailments, urinary tract infections and to stop haemorrhaging. Recently, however, it has also been argued to have been cultivated for hallucinogenic, ecstatic qualities.

ERGOT

One theory for the psychoactive ingredient in the Greek *kykeon* drink is ergot, the psychoactive fungus that grows on rye, barley and related plants. It contains lysergic acid and so has similar symptoms to lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD). These symptoms include hallucinations and convulsions. The Eleusinian Mysteries (pictured) were an initiation into the cult of the goddesses Demeter and Persephone, held every year in Eleusis, modern Elefsina northwest of Athens. Although secretive, the rites involved visions and frenzy, and many scholars have argued that the rites involved the use of psychedelic drugs. Ergot is the main one suggested, although Demeter is often shown carrying opium poppy heads too. Furthermore, similar mysteries and rites spread throughout the Greek and Roman worlds and all involved similar practices. Ergot is first mentioned in an Assyrian tablet in 600 BCE. In 350 BCE in India, it was recognised as an abortifacient (something also recorded of silphium). A burning sensation was documented as a symptom and it was later blamed as a cause of several dancing plague outbreaks in the Middle Ages.



SILPHIUM

Although now probably extinct, silphium was part of the Apiaceae family (celery, carrot and parsley) in the Ferula genus. According to Theophrastus (*Enquiry into Plants*) it could not be cultivated and only grew wild; this may have been one of the causes of its dying out as it grew only in the coastal zone of Cyrenaica in North Africa (near modern-day Shahhat, Libya) that only measured some 200 x 50km. Silphium, especially its heart-shaped seed, was associated with love and sex from relatively early in Greek history.

It was also considered a contraceptive or abortifacient (inducing a foetus to abort). The plant had several remarkable medicinal properties, used as a cure for coughs, sore throats, fevers, indigestion, and all manner of aches and pains to be ingested or as a poultice. In *Natural History*, Pliny notes more than 40 remedies in which it could be used.

The poet Catullus mentions it as *lasarpicium* or "laser" (that according to Pliny was the juice of the silphium plant) in one of his love poems to Lesbia (*Catullus* 7, line 4). The association of silphium and love, sex and romance was thus early and continued. It may have been so popular and in demand that it was extinct by the third century BCE; the city of Cyrene near where it was sourced became the richest city in Africa until the rise of Alexandria.

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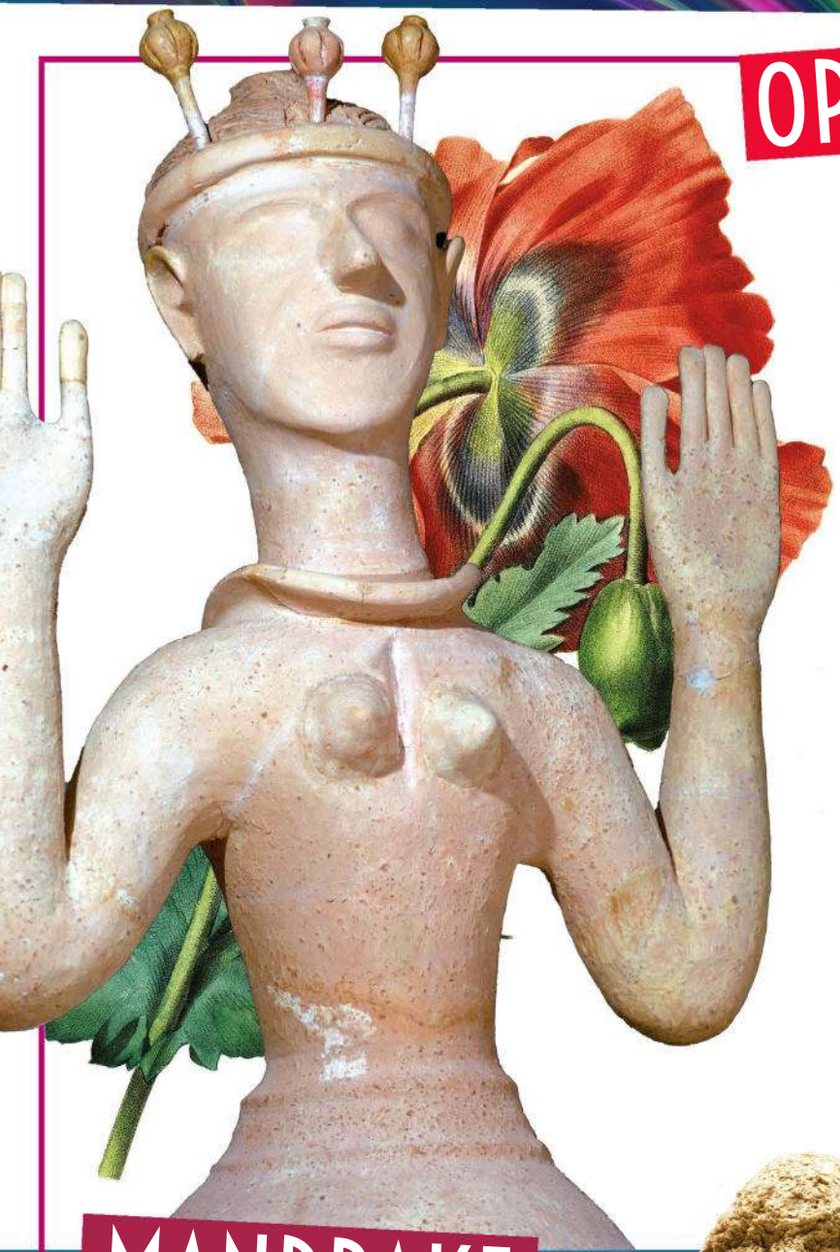
OPIUM

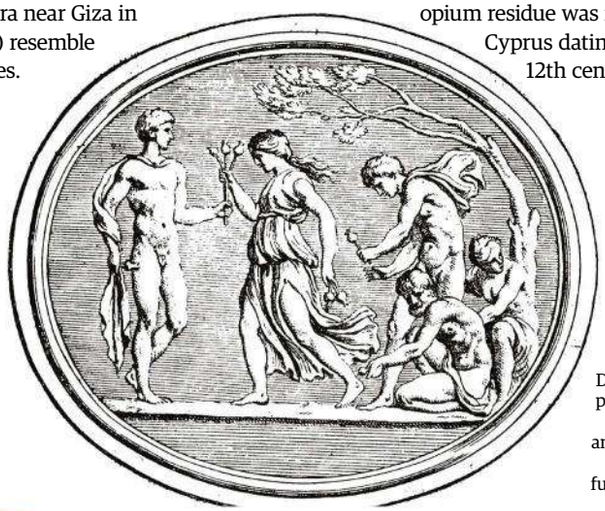


We have evidence that the opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*) was cultivated in ancient Mesopotamia around 3400 BCE. There may even be evidence of poppy seeds from 4000 BCE in Spain, or earlier in Lake Bracciano, Italy. Originally the poppy was crushed and the juices drunk, such as in Greece – Theophrastus talks of its milky juice that tasted like wild endive or chicory. We see evidence of the poppy on Minoan Crete in c.1300 BCE, the famous 'poppy-goddess' figure from Gazi (pictured, left), Mycenae in Greece and beyond.

There was an opium trade too – Cypriot opium vessels have been found in Egypt and the Levant. Some of these vessels (such as from Saqqura near Giza in Egypt) resemble poppies.

One of its primary uses would have been to relieve pain, much like opiates today. The Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius took opium several times a day to relieve his chest discomfort according to the historian Cassius Dio. It was also used to aid sleep (Pliny *Natural History* 20.77) as a purgative and to give courage to warriors before battle.

Its importance can also be surmised by how often the poppy is depicted in ancient art. The tombs of Tillya Tepe in the Bactrian Kingdom (modern Afghanistan) from the first century BCE revealed many items of jewellery modelled on poppy flowers and pods, perhaps signifying a ritualistic preparation or association with the poppy. An ivory pipe with opium residue was found on Cyprus dating to the 12th century BCE.



LEFT
Depictions of poppies were common in ancient Greek art and on funerary stele

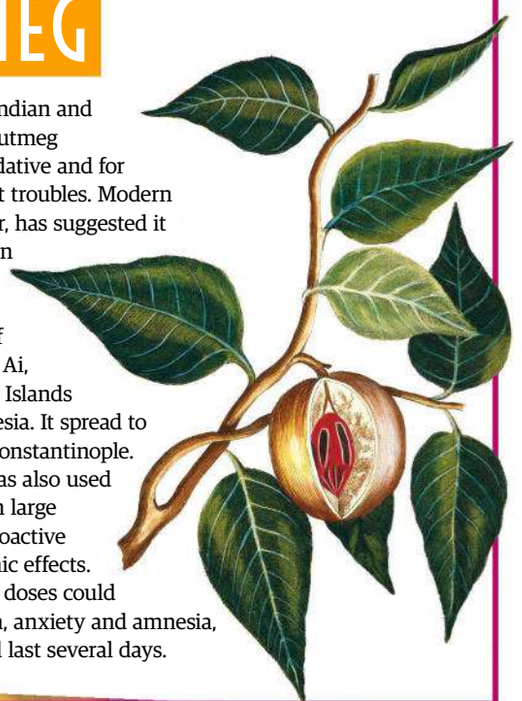
MANDRAKE

The mandrake (Latin *Mandragora*) has most commonly been associated with magic rituals since the thick roots are often thought to resemble human figures (such as the one pictured from the London Science Museum). The plant contains hallucinogenic, narcotic and hypnotic elements that aided in its uses. Pedanius Dioscorides, the father of pharmacology, writing in around 90 CE recommended that patients should take mandrake (that contains both scopolamine and atropine) mixed with wine, as an anodyne or anaesthetic before they underwent limb amputation. Pliny talks of patients chewing the root before surgeries. The juice of a mandrake was recommended for rheumatism, and it was also used as a soporific to bring on sleep; hence it was utilised to cure convulsions and mania. It could also be used to make a poultice for ulcers. However, in large doses it could induce delirium.

Image source: wiki/Wellcome Collection

NUTMEG

In both ancient Indian and Asian cultures, nutmeg was used as a sedative and for asthma and heart troubles. Modern analysis, however, has suggested it gives no benefit in such cases. The earliest record is from residue of a pot from Pulau Ai, one of the Banda Islands in eastern Indonesia. It spread to India and even Constantinople. Like saffron, it was also used in cooking but, in large doses, had psychoactive and hallucinogenic effects. Particularly large doses could result in delirium, anxiety and amnesia, effects that could last several days.



ALCOHOL

The earliest evidence of the fermentation of alcohol for leisure purposes dates back to 8000 BCE. Although beer and wine were brewed and fermented from early on in recorded ancient history across many cultures, and were consumed as part of the every day, there is ample evidence they were also used in rituals and for other purposes. There are also many stories where drinking was a requirement of day-to-day existence, but drunken behaviour was not tolerated; Socrates, for instance, was regarded as a philosopher who could 'hold his drink'. Yet both Plato and Aristotle comment on how improper drunkenness was. In Greece, the alcoholic *kykeon* (consisting of barley) was part of several religious rituals. It is possible it also contained a psychoactive ingredient (like the *nepenthes* of the *Odyssey*). This would allow the participants in a ritual to enter into an 'altered state' and perhaps better communicate with the gods. Many cultures had complex mythologies of who introduced the art of winemaking to their culture, such as Dionysus in Greece (pictured) or Bacchus (and you will still find people calling a drunken revel a Bacchanalia on occasion). Many stories were also associated with a culture's inability to deal with intoxication (like the Gauls, unable to deal with Roman wine). Likewise, the death of Alexander the Great (and even Attila the Hun) are blamed on drinking; in Alexander's case it was the fact he drank unmixed wine, since Greeks would often water down their wine significantly.

BELOW
A wall painting in the tomb of an Egyptian scribe that shows grapes being turned into wine

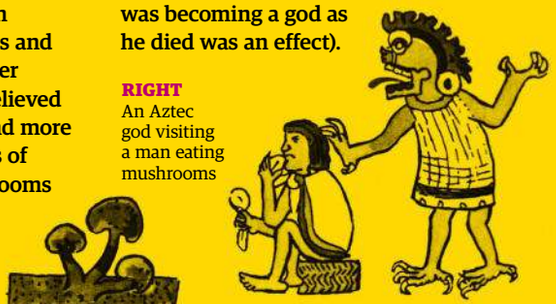
All images: © Getty Images

WORMWOOD

The wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*) plant is attested as being used in the ancient world from around 1550 BCE. Today it is one of the main ingredients in the drink absinthe and Pliny talks of wormwood wine, although he also tells us that it was highly esteemed by the Romans in their religious festivals. He tells us a wormwood drink was given to victorious chariot-race drivers. He then lists 48 remedies (27.28): it strengthened the stomach, was used against jaundice, to stop flatulence, an antidote to hemlock, bad mushrooms, and scorpion stings. It improved sight and hearing and could be used on bruises and ulcers. The drink could also prevent sea sickness. Unlike many drugs where the ancients ascribed qualities to them that modern analyses have not corroborated, wormwood has all the qualities the ancients ascribed and more. The chemicals in wormwood have antifungal, antidepressant qualities, they act as an insecticide and effective against ticks and mites, and are good for brain function, blood, antimalarial, antimicrobial and will expel parasitic worms. It can also be used to cure indigestion, and in the modern day is used against Crohn's and Berger's diseases.

MUSHROOMS

To give them their proper name, Psilocybin or 'magic mushrooms' have long been known and used. A naturally occurring psychedelic in more than 200 species of fungi, we can find them depicted in murals dating to around 9-7000 BCE in Algeria and Spain. We also find evidence for such fungi in Mesoamerica. Consuming such mushrooms causes hallucinations and nausea although, like several other drugs on this list, the ancients believed such a state made them closer and more receptive to their gods. Followers of Dionysus may have taken mushrooms as part of their ceremonies. As with many drugs, individual symptoms can vary greatly and the mystery of this likely only added to their allure in the ancient world – would you experience euphoria, paranoia, lethargy or disorientation (and were those feelings the gods' will?). Claudius, who famously was poisoned with a plate of mushrooms, may have used them for their hallucinogenic qualities (perhaps his declaration that he was becoming a god as he died was an effect).



RIGHT
An Aztec god visiting a man eating mushrooms

RIGHT
The floral collar of Tutankhamun, which includes blue lotus petals

BLUE WATER LILY

Found in 1922 and excavated in 1923, in the tomb of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun his body was covered in blue water lily (or Egyptian lotus, or blue lotus) flowers. Another Egyptian funeral stele shows Ba sniffing an Egyptian lotus flower. When prepared in wine, the extract of the flower (aporphine) acts as a sedative and is a common motif on Egyptian tombs. The rhizomes of the plant are edible and the aporphine was also used as an emetic, as well as a relief for anxiety and cravings. When Homer's Odysseus consumed the flower he lost his desire to fight the will of the gods. One of its modern uses is in the treatment of Parkinson's disease. Some sources state that it put the user into a relaxed, more talkative state. It may also have been an aphrodisiac and has been used more recently to cure erectile dysfunction.

CANNABIS

Cannabis may have been brought to Europe as early as 3000 BCE by the Yamnaya people of the Pontic steppe, north and east of the Black Sea. Its first uses are recorded in the Altai Mountains in approximately 10,000 BCE, although they may have used hemp plant for its fibres.

In 2000 BCE in China, medicinal properties of cannabis were identified. At the same time in Egypt, hashish was smoked during surgeries as well as to treat pain, offered to women during childbirth and to relieve menstrual cramps. A burial from western China dating to 750 BCE contained a male body buried with 800 grams of cannabis with a high THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) content, the psychoactive component of cannabis. An 8th century altar in Israel showed evidence of the burning of both frankincense and cannabis. This raises the possibility that it and other drugs were used for their hallucinatory and psychedelic properties during religious ceremonies.

Ancient chroniclers have different takes on the plant. Herodotus reports that after the burial of a king, the Scythians threw hemp seeds on hot stones and were delighted (or alleviated from their grief) by the fumes, while Pliny tells of cannabis as an anti-inflammatory and being used as a treatment for conditions like gout and arthritis. Galen, however, wrote of a cannabis cake and that if the seeds were consumed or burned in large amounts, they created a feeling of warmth and an appetite for drinking.

RIGHT The Taoist deity Magu's name derives from the Chinese words for cannabis or hemp (ma) and aunt or maiden (gu)

FAR-RIGHT God of scribes Seshat is depicted with a hemp leaf in her headdress

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GAS

One of the most important religious sites in the ancient world was the Oracle at Delphi. Many of the most famous events in Greek and later history were not undertaken without first having gained an answer from the gods as to whether it would succeed. At Delphi the high priestess, the Pythia or Sibyl, would commune with the god Apollo and answer the question of any petitioner. These answers were often in a 'strange language'.

The Sibyl would sit on a tripod in the sunken inner sanctuary of the temple, the *adyton*, and, according to more than one source, inhale gasses to better communicate with the god. The gas issued from the fissure under her tripod would send her into a trance. The author Plutarch, who was himself a priest at Delphi tells us this: he calls them 'sweet-smelling *pneuma*' - breaths from the rocks.

Investigations of the site have revealed that two fault lines did exist under the *adyton* and these may have emitted hydrocarbon gases (ethylene or ethane) that may have caused euphoria and visions (known side effects of such gasses). No consultations of the Oracle were permitted during winter; gases ceased to be emitted during the colder months. Other sources refer to the Oracle burning 'laurel' to inspire her visions. This could have been oleander that, when burned, does give off toxic vapours that can induce symptoms similar to those of the Pythia's trance.

BELOW Established during the reigns of Harun Al Rashid and his son, Al Ma'mun, Iraq's House of Wisdom was the world's centre of scholarship and learning

The City of Peace

Written by Hareth Al Bustani

Perfectly situated between East and West, Baghdad became one of the Silk Road's leading centres of trade, science and cultural exchange

By 750, the Umayyad dynasty had expanded the Muslim Caliphate to its greatest limits – ruling over a realm twice the size of the Roman Empire at its peak, stretching from Spain to China. However, that year, the Umayyads were overthrown and slaughtered by the Abbasid dynasty who, rather than ruling from Damascus, decided to establish their very own capital. In 762, the Abbasid caliph picked a plot near the old Sassanid capital of Ctesiphon for a remarkably ambitious new city, a beating heart for the Islamic Golden Age to come.

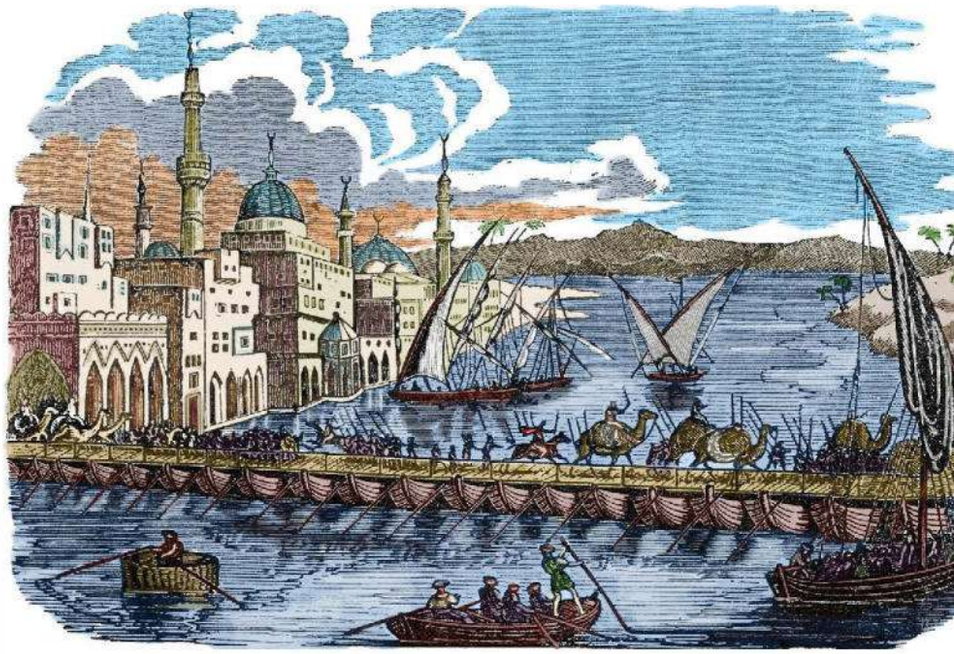
> "China would send silk to be prepared and exported to the Arabian Peninsula, Europe, Russia, Samarkand and South East Asia"

Named Madinat Al Salam, or 'The City of Peace', it was a perfectly circular metropolis, overlooking the Tigris river. Four gates were set within its mighty walls, like spokes on a wheel: the southeastern Basra Gate opened up to the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean; the southwestern Kufah Gate to Medina and Mecca; the northwestern Damascus Gate to Syria and the Mediterranean; and the northeastern Khurasan Gate to Persia, Central Asia and beyond. Later dubbed 'Baghdad', the city was perfectly situated at a crucial intersection of the Silk Road – weaving together a tapestry of interlocking routes towards East Asia, Anatolia, the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa. Meanwhile, sat along the Tigris, it also occupied prime real estate on the Maritime Silk Road, soon becoming one of the world's busiest trade hubs.

Merchants would travel from as far afield as East Africa, India, Anatolia, Tibet, Khazar, Daylam and China, hauling their wares to Baghdad, where they were greeted by a sprawling market. Meanwhile, Baghdad developed a spirit of entrepreneurialism, and soon grew into one of the foremost centres of silk and velvet manufacturing. The city's artisans crafted magnificent silk, adorned with gold threads, while velvet was embroidered with small animals and birds. Their skill was so renowned, China would

BELOW Built alongside the Tigris, the circular Madinat Al Salam, or 'City of Peace', rapidly grew into one of the Silk Road's most important commercial centres

All images: © Alamy



RIGHT As Arab merchants and scholars travelled from East Africa to China, Baghdadi culture was disseminated along the Silk Road, bringing Islam with it

send its silk to Baghdad to be prepared and exported onwards to the Arabian Peninsula, Europe, Russia, Samarkand and South East Asia. Baghdad's distinctive Attabi cloth, produced in the Al Attabia district, grew immensely popular all over the planet, and was even reproduced in Europe, called tabis by the Italians and French, and tabby by the English. From Baghdad, the famed pottery of Samarra, marked by stunning colours and a lustre painting technique over a white glaze, was exported to Egypt, Syria, Iran and Spain.

These Iraqi wares were carried off across the world by Abbasid traders, who, in monsoon season, would ride the winds from East Africa to India and South East Asia. Along the way, they anchored and settled in various commercial ports, spanning the Malabar Coast, Ceylon, Singapore, Borneo, Java, the Sumatra Islands and Canton. They were often accompanied by Abbasid scholars, intellectuals and missionaries, whose combined efforts saw the spread of Islam down the Silk Road through cultural exchange, rather than conquest. The religion found fertile ground in India, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia, and Sumatran kings themselves would later adopt the faith, as evidenced by Islamic calendar engravings on their tombstones.

Although Arabic remained the official language, early Abbasid rulers borrowed generously from the collective knowledge and heritage of their domains. They drew upon Roman, Greek, Persian, Christian and Jewish works, and expanded the Caliphate's tradition of religious tolerance into a wholehearted embrace. Under the patronage of the worldly caliph, Harun Al Rashid, and his son, Baghdad grew into the world's foremost bastion of science, philosophy and academia, with a population of one million. Driving the Islamic world to the forefront of international intellectualism, the caliphs hired Muslim, Zoroastrian, Jewish and Christian scholars alike to translate works into Arabic. Building upon the long-overlooked Greek scientific and technological traditions, they amassed their knowledge at the magnificent Bayt al Hikmah, or 'House of Wisdom', library in Baghdad, which featured its own reading rooms and halls.

The library's copying and binding department produced beautiful translations of existing works, which, even after the Abbasids lost North Africa to the Fatimids, were sent to the rival intellectual centres of Tunisia's own House of Wisdom and Cairo's Dar Al Hikmah. Remarkably, the Caliph successfully petitioned the Byzantine emperor to obtain several old scientific manuscripts from the vaults of Byzantium. As works poured in from across the world, the Abbasids' translators toiled over Greek, Syriac, Assyrian, Hebrew, Latin, Chinese and Indian texts, adopting their knowledge and sharing it with the world.

Many ancient Greek texts on medicine and mathematics were reproduced and studied in the House of Wisdom in Baghdad

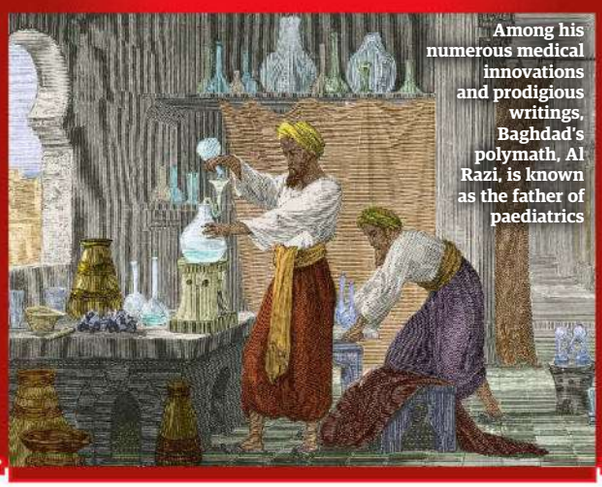
They also learned Chinese paper-making techniques, which only further helped ramp up book production; an art they transmitted to Europe. Bayt Al Hikmah contained a huge number of maps, manuscripts and astronomical charts – including a magnificent map of the entire planet, produced by a team of cartographers and astronomers, commissioned by Harun Al Rashid's son, Caliph Al Ma'mun. The library inspired a renaissance, with others sprouting up not just across the Muslim world, but along

Baghdad's medical marvels

Baghdad was home to the Islamic world's first major hospital, built under Harun Al Rashid. In ensuing centuries, 30 hospitals would sprout all across the caliphate, bringing growth and prosperity to the cities they graced. Every citizen was entitled to free healthcare, regardless of their background, and Baghdad's physicians and pharmacists had to pass a test in order to practice.

Asides from sources such as the Greco-Roman Galen, Abbasid medical scholars incorporated an understanding of pre-Islamic folk medicine and Chinese drugs, as well as several Indian medical manuscripts. Galens' theory of four humours became a cornerstone of Greco-Arab medicine, which travelled from Baghdad east along the Silk Road, where it was adopted in India and infused with Ayurvedic lore. Chinese Buddhists also embraced Muslim medical knowledge, such as treating wounds and urinalysis.

The head physician at Baghdad's main hospital, Muhammad Al Razi, wrote scores of books, including a groundbreaking study on measles and smallpox, and another on toothaches. He also compiled the corpus of Arabic medical knowledge into the *Comprehensive Book On Medicine*, which was translated into Latin in 1279. His *Book Of Medicine Dedicated To Mansur* became one of the most widely read medical manuals in Europe.



Among his numerous medical innovations and prodigious writings, Baghdad's polymath, Al Razi, is known as the father of paediatrics

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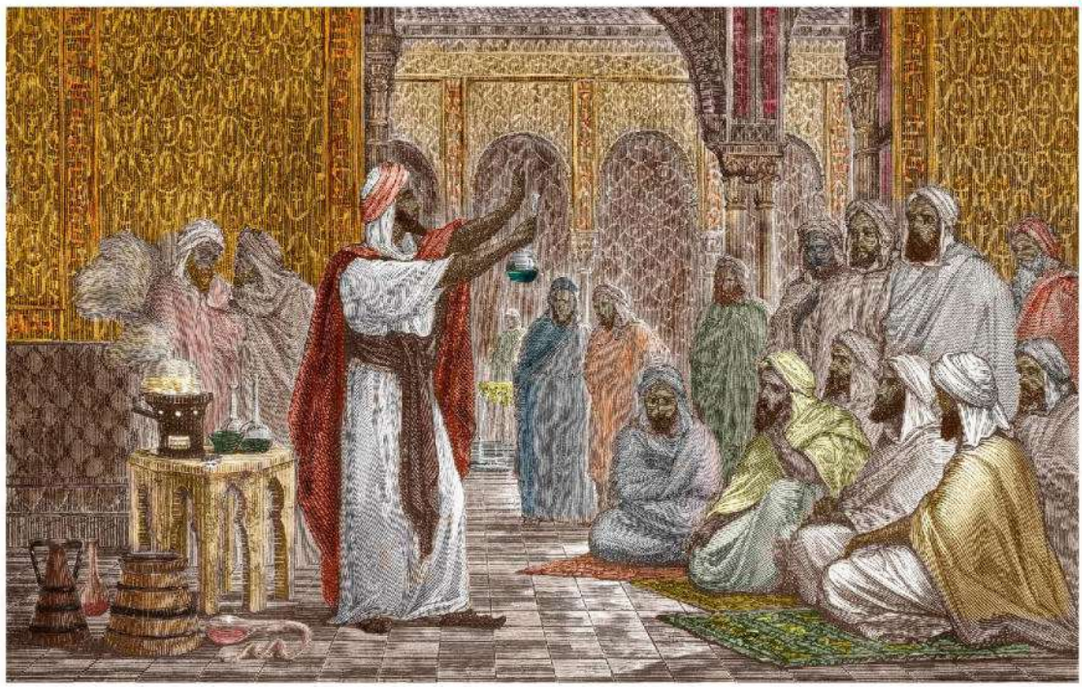


"Baghdad became one of the Silk Road's leading centres of medicine, bridging Roman, Byzantine, Indian and Arab practices"

the Silk Road, through Basra, Damascus, Bokhara, and Merv, towards China.

Baghdad's most renowned translator, a Christian called Hunayn ibn Ishaq Al Ibadi, not only spoke Syriac, but Greek and Arabic too. Asides from composing medical texts, from the age of 17, he produced a remarkable amount of translations, including numerous versions of nearly all known Greek medical books, half the Aristotelian writings and commentaries, the Septuagint, and many mathematical works. As a result of these studies, Baghdad became one of the Silk Road's leading centres of medicine, bridging Roman, Byzantine, Indian and Arab practices. Meanwhile, the pioneer Jabir Al Hayyan transformed the art of alchemy into the science of chemistry, ushering in sweeping advancements – from the invention of the alembic, to the discovery and the documentation of various scientific processes.

Al Haytham developed the realms of theoretical physics and optics, introducing the revolutionary concept that scientific hypotheses should be backed by empirical evidence. Al Tusi, meanwhile, wrote 160 titles, outlining the nature of the Milky Way centuries before it could be proven. Caliph Al Ma'mun built Baghdad's first observatory in the 9th century, encouraging astronomers to create tables identifying the movements of the Sun and Moon, star catalogues, and writeups about their instruments. Other observatories would later sprout up in Samarkand, modern Uzbekistan, and Maragha, Iran, where calculations varied by mere fractions of a degree.

Indian astronomers were invited to bring their planetary tables and texts for calculating eclipses to Baghdad, where they were translated into Arabic. Spectacularly, Indian stargazers embraced Islamic astronomy's rejection of the geocentric universe theory. Baghdad's astronomers supposedly discovered 1,000 uses for the archaic astrolabe device, across the fields of astronomy, horoscopes, navigation, time-keeping, prayer, surveying and more. Muslims across the world could use it to determine which direction to pray towards, and what times the five daily prayers would be at. Rather than relying on the observer's latitude, Islamic astrolabes worked anywhere on the planet. Once again, this invention would later spread to Renaissance Europe.

ABOVE Through a series of sweeping inventions and innovations, Jabir Al Hayyan lifted the art of alchemy into the realm of modern chemistry

BELOW Caliph Al Ma'mun was a generous patron of learning, commissioning scores of ambitious projects, and securing old manuscripts from the Byzantine emperor

While it was once forbidden to depict the human form, murals of Buddhist statues and Indian narrative artwork began to adorn the city's mosques, leading to an explosion of form, techniques and figures in Islamic art. Bolstered by their newfound technical knowledge, Baghdad's artisans elevated glass-blowing to great new heights, mixing silica, soda ash and lime together and heating them to 1,371°C, before eventually blowing it into shape. Baghdadi glass, the finest in the world, travelled along the Silk Route towards China, cherished as precious wares. Asides from Chinese weaving techniques, Muslim craftsmen began to mimic the Tang dynasty's ceramic styles; helping the style to outlive the dynasty itself.

Bolstered by a spirit of tolerance and intellectualism, Baghdad remained the engine room of the Silk Road's cultural exchange for centuries – even as dwindling Abbasid power led scholars to rival alternatives. However, Baghdad's coveted seat on the Silk Road, and the Islamic Golden Age, drew to a brutal close when the Mongols sacked the city in 1258. Aside from looting and burning the city to the ground, they destroyed the House of Wisdom – the Tigris supposedly running black with the ink from countless books, and red with blood.

Regardless, the legacy of the Silk Road's cultural and intellectual melting pot would live on, in Toledo's School of Translators, and Europe's Renaissance.

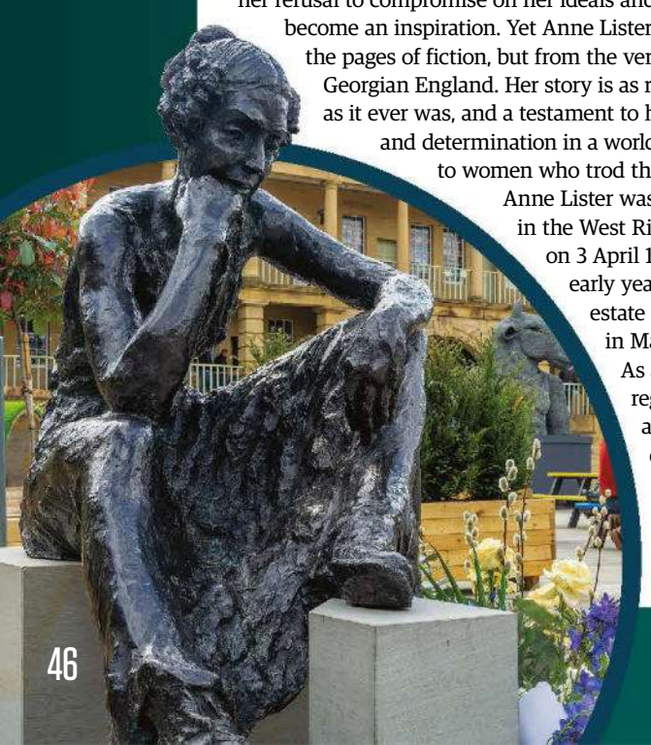
The Life of GENTLEMAN JACK

Anne Lister was a true trailblazer, and today her story continues to inspire

Written by Catherine Curzon

Today, the name of Yorkshire businesswoman and trailblazing lesbian Anne Lister is known to audiences across the globe. Thanks to *Gentleman Jack*, BBC/HBO's enormously successful biographical drama, Lister's life and her refusal to compromise on her ideals and passions have become an inspiration. Yet Anne Lister sprang not from the pages of fiction, but from the very real world of Georgian England. Her story is as remarkable today as it ever was, and a testament to her intelligence and determination in a world that wasn't used to women who trod their own path.

Anne Lister was born in Halifax, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, on 3 April 1791, and spent her early years on the family estate of Skelfler House in Market Weighton. As a child she was a regular visitor to her aunt and uncle's estate at Shibden Hall, which the landowning Lister family had owned since the 17th century. As a girl in the Georgian era, Anne Lister was not raised to be in business, but to be a wife. When she was seven years old she was sent to school in Ripon, and it was during the years of her education that her character and personality began to flourish.



LEFT A 2021 statue of Anne Lister by Diane Lawrenson at Piece Hall, Halifax

In a world that hoped to forge little girls into ladylike adults, Anne Lister was going to break the mould. She was a fiercely intelligent and strong-willed student who was hungry to learn about the world around her. As an adult Lister indulged her passion for travel, making trips abroad that were considered ill-suited to a woman, and her curiosity for the wider world was awakened by an education that was never intended to instil a wanderlust in genteel young ladies. Lister left school to be educated at home by the vicar of Market Weighton in 1801, but at the age of 14 she was at boarding school in York.

The Manor House School is the place where Lister first fell in love. While studying she began a relationship with Eliza

> "IN A WORLD THAT HOPED TO FORGE LITTLE GIRLS INTO LADYLIKE ADULTS, ANNE LISTER WAS GOING TO BREAK THE MOULD"

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Anne, Lister's Grave

Years after it was lost, the grave of Gentleman Jack was rediscovered at last

Anne Lister was buried in Halifax Minster in West Yorkshire on 29 April 1841. Her tombstone was later covered by a floor in 1879 and lost. For well over a century the grave and tombstone were forgotten, and seemingly no mention was made of it in official church records.

That all changed in early 2000, when a number of Victorian pews were being removed during restoration work of the north east corner of the church. Only then were the incomplete, smashed remains of Lister's tombstone discovered, having been lost for 121 years. Why the stone was smashed is a mystery and the whereabouts of much of the stone remains unknown. Today the surviving pieces of the tombstone are cared for at Halifax Minster.

Sadly, the exact location of Anne Lister's grave also remains unknown. While the church maintains that she was buried in the family vault, others – including *Gentleman Jack* creator Sally Wainwright – believe that the discovery of the smashed tombstone suggests that Lister's grave lies elsewhere within the Minster. Whatever the truth, Anne's memory will live on, as her story continues to inspire.

LEFT A portrait of Anne Lister by Joshua Horner

TOP Anne Lister and Ann Walker made Shibden Hall their family home. They renovated and improved it, and turned it into a sanctuary

ABOVE Anne Lister's residence at Shibden Hall in Calderdale is open to the public, who flock there to get a look at the place she called home

All images: © Alamy

Raine, who shared her boarding school bedroom. Raine was the illegitimate daughter of a deceased surgeon for the East India Company, and she stood to inherit a fortune when she came of age. She dreamed of making a life with Lister after their school days, while Lister dreamed of the travels that Raine's money would buy, but their relationship was not to be. Lister began romancing other girls at the school and after just two years, she was asked to leave. The heartbroken Raine was left behind to nurse her hopes of one day being reunited with her first love, but Lister was in no mood to be tied down. She wanted to be free to see the world and take other lovers, whether Raine liked it or not. Tragically, Eliza Raine never got to fully explore her life either; she eventually ended her days in an asylum.

Lister wasn't sent to another school, but instead continued her education at home. She began to build a library in which to indulge her passion for classical literature, and wrote often to her aunt at Shibden. When she was 15 Lister began the first volume of her famed diaries, which eventually extended to thousands of pages that offered an unparalleled look into her trailblazing life. Well aware that society wouldn't understand her desires, she developed a secret code that she would employ whenever she wanted to write about her most intimate dreams and desires; it was a code that would take researchers years to break. Within the pages of her diaries, Lister could leave an account of her most private life, in a world that criminalised homosexuality and barely acknowledged the existence of lesbians at all. Yet though she concealed this most fundamental part of her character, she concealed little else. Lister joyfully rejected the accepted signifiers of

> "ON EASTER SUNDAY IN 1834, ANNE LISTER AND ANN WALKER EXCHANGED RINGS AT THE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN YORK"

Georgian femininity and began to dress in masculine clothes and undertake what were considered masculine pursuits.

When she was in her early twenties Lister fell in love with Marianne Belcombe, the daughter of a wealthy local doctor, and the women conducted a secret love affair in full view of their unsuspecting families. When they exchanged rings, the gesture was explained away by their friends and families as a gift between best friends. Yet Belcombe had no intention of making a life with Lister and in 1815, she married. Though Lister joined the couple on honeymoon, the loss of Belcombe broke her heart. She tried to occupy herself by starting an affair with Belcombe's sister instead, but the attraction between the two old flames was too strong to ignore. Lister and Belcombe began an affair that lasted for years, but it could never be more. Belcombe was desperate to be accepted as a model society wife and eventually she ended the relationship, embarrassed by her lover's masculine appearance and refusal to compromise on her lifestyle.

Lister loved to travel and made her first trip abroad in 1819, when she visited France. She made several further trips to Europe to explore and hike, eschewing the ladylike trips expected of her. Lister inherited Shibden Hall in 1826 with her uncle's death, but she shared control of its income with her aunt and her younger brother. Independent and strong-willed, Lister found travelling the perfect antidote to the stifling life she knew at Shibden Hall with her aunt. Nor did she travel in the way young ladies were expected to, undertaking dainty trips and spa visits; instead she hiked and wandered, scaling mountains and going where female travellers were little seen. It was expensive, but it gave her a freedom that she felt was denied to her at home.

By 1836, Lister's aunt and brother were dead and she finally took full control of the Shibden estate's income. Once she was in the driving seat, Lister was able to prove that she truly was a businesswoman to be reckoned with. With a portfolio that included shares in railways, canals, mines and quarries, as well as a number of properties, Anne Lister was now an independently wealthy woman. Her financial security allowed her to live as she pleased to a point and financed her travels across Europe. She also used her business income to renovate Shibden Hall,

Gentleman Jack

BBC/HBO's *Gentleman Jack* reinvigorated interest in Anne Lister around the world

When Sally Wainwright's *Gentleman Jack* debuted in 2019, it became an overnight sensation. The series, a co-production between the BBC and HBO, revealed Anne Lister's remarkable story to audiences across the globe, and found a passionate following that continues to this day. Though it was not the first televisual treatment of Anne Lister's story, it is certainly the most well-known. In the wake of *Gentleman Jack*, interest in Anne Lister and Ann Walker has reached new heights, and visitors flock to Halifax and Shibden Hall, eager to tread in the footsteps of their heroine.

Lister's story was also told in 2010 on BBC Two in *The Secret Diaries Of Miss Anne Lister*, and has inspired other drama and music, as well as numerous books and articles. However, despite *Gentleman Jack*'s popularity, after two series and 16 episodes, HBO withdrew their participation in the series. Though the BBC expressed an interest in continuing Lister's story, to date the series has not been renewed.

which was restored to its former glory and became her beloved home.

Yet Lister didn't just sit back and let other people run her businesses while she spent the profits. Instead, she took a hands-on approach to managing her portfolio of business interests and she proved to be a fearsome opponent to any who dared challenge her. Lister was a natural entrepreneur who instinctively understood the emerging world of industry that was there for the taking. She understood too the importance of the stable income her estate properties provided when it came to building a base for investments that might otherwise have proved too risky, and eventually she was even able – with an injection of capital provided by her lover, Ann Walker – to sink her own pits. For a woman, such things were unheard of.

Ann Walker, whose money was to prove so vital to helping Anne Lister's business expansion, was the shy daughter of a neighbouring estate, whom Anne Lister had known for years. However, the timid Walker had made little impact on her more

LEFT Though *Gentleman Jack* is the most well-known adaptation of Lister's story, the BBC also produced *The Secret Diaries Of Miss Anne Lister* in 2010

BELOW-LEFT The grave of Ann Walker, the wife of Lister

RIGHT This rainbow plaque memorialises Anne Lister's marriage to Ann Walker at Holy Trinity Church

FAR-RIGHT Anne Lister lived by her own rules. Businesswoman, traveller and lesbian, she was determined to succeed

All images: © Alamy

forthright neighbour until they met again as women. This time, Anne Lister found her neighbour irresistible, her attraction made all the more acute by the fortune that Walker stood to inherit. Ann Walker was not Anne Lister's first love, and Lister had enjoyed a string of clandestine affairs both at home and abroad. She had even hoped to marry Vere Hobart, sister of the 5th Earl of Buckinghamshire, but after a whirlwind trip to France Vere instead married a man. This time, however, Lister had met a woman who was all too willing to return her feelings.

Just before she began her relationship with Lister, Ann Walker's fiancé had died, and she was in need of affection and comfort. Anne Lister provided it, and the two women fell quickly in love. However, when Lister invited her lover to live at Shibden with her, Walker demurred. She was all too aware of how their relationship would be perceived, and asked if she could have some time to consider the invitation. Lister took herself off to Europe and, during her absence, Ann Walker attracted the attention of a male suitor.

The attention of that male suitor convinced Walker that she already had what she wanted; she rejected his advances and, when Anne Lister returned from her travels, the two women established their household at Shibden Hall. They were ready to make a commitment, whether it was recognised or not, and they undertook what has since become recognised as the first lesbian marriage in the United Kingdom. Today, their union is commemorated with a plaque at the church.

On Easter Sunday in 1834, Anne Lister and Ann Walker took communion together at the Holy Trinity Church in Goodramgate, York, and exchanged rings. Always the subject of gossip and the target of cruel comments, Anne Lister had long since learned to ignore the catcalls that she attracted, but news of the shared communion brought with it a new wave of cruelty. Anonymous letters mocking the marriage arrived at Shibden Hall and someone even paid to place an advertisement in *The Leeds Mercury* that publicly rubbished the marriage of Captain Tom Lister and Ann Walker. In a demonstration of their extraordinary strength, the two women faced their critics head on. Rather than hide away and try to pretend that they were nothing but friends, they went away on their honeymoon, which they spent in France and Switzerland.

For the rest of Lister's life, she and her beloved wife lived happily together

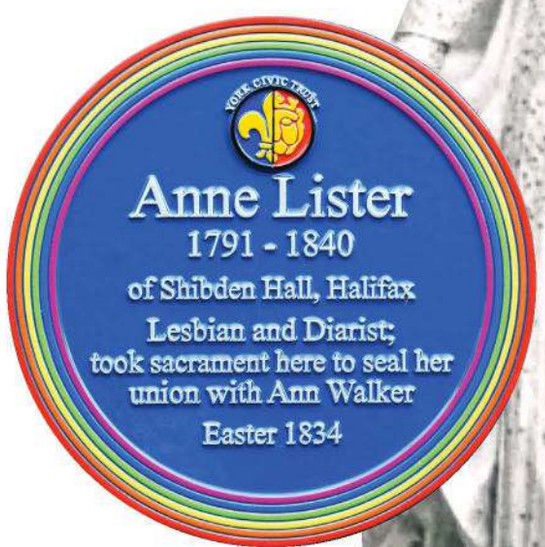
> "ANNE LISTER WAS DEDICATED, SINGLE-MINDED AND DETERMINED, A SINGULAR WOMAN OF EXTRAORDINARY INTELLIGENCE AND WILL"

at Shibden Hall. Ann Walker's fortune and Anne Lister's income and business interests made them a formidable couple, who were able to live independently, safe from the meddling of families. Once unloved and falling into disrepair, Shibden was now the centre of their home life and its picturesque lake and waterfall were restored to former glories, while Lister designed and project-managed a number of renovations. She had long since been building and nurturing a richly appointed library and now she was able to give it the home it deserved, in a newly constructed Gothic Tower that was added to Shibden Hall in 1838.

Anne Lister and Ann Walker took their final trip together in 1839, when they undertook an ambitious tour through France, Denmark and Sweden, before reaching Russia at the freezing height of a brutal winter. Ann Walker was keen to turn back rather than journey on through what was virtually uncharted territory, but her wife convinced her that they should continue with their journey. As they travelled on through regions that sometimes saw them joined by a military escort, Anne Lister suffered an insect bite that turned septic. She died of fever on 22 September 1840 at Kutaisi in Georgia.

Broken by grief, Ann Walker returned to England and the echoing rooms of Shibden Hall, which Lister had willed to her. As Anne Lister's body was laid to rest in Halifax Minster, her wife locked the doors of Shibden and sank into depression. When the concerned Walker family finally had the doors broken down they found the house in chaos and a despairing Ann with a loaded pistol at her side. Ann Walker joined Eliza Raine in the asylum. Ironically, they were both under the care of the father of Marianne Belcombe.

The rediscovery and decoding of Anne Lister's diaries, as well as the celebrated *Gentleman Jack*, has allowed modern audiences to discover the true story of a woman who truly blazed her own trail. Anne Lister was dedicated, single-minded and determined, a singular woman of extraordinary intelligence and will. She has become an icon, remembered as the ground-breaking figure she truly was.



HUNT
FOR THE
PHANTOM
KILLER

Who was the masked man who held the region of Texarkana in a grip of fear?

Written by Callum McKelvie

A cold moon rose over Texarkana on the night of 22 February 1946. At 11.45pm, 25-year-old Jim Hollis and his 19-year-old girlfriend Mary Jeanne Larey parked their car on a secluded road – locally known as 'lovers' lane'. After a moment, they embraced each other, safe in the knowledge that they were alone at last. Suddenly, they were blinded by the flash of a torch. Looking up, Hollis realised in terror that he was staring down the barrel of a gun. There was no way they could have known the horror they were about to endure.

Forced to exit the car, the mysterious gunman demanded Hollis remove his britches, threatening to kill him if he disobeyed. Larey then heard an almighty crack and Hollis slumped as the figure struck him hard with the butt of the pistol. Larey tried to escape but was quickly caught. The figure then proceeded to brutally sexually assault her.

Once discovered, Hollis and Larey were immediately taken to hospital. Of their attacker, they stated little could be seen, but both claimed he was at least six feet tall and wore a sack over his head, hiding his true identity. Through two tiny holes his eyes had stared menacingly out at his victims. Jim Hollis and Mary Jeanne Larey survived that night, but few others would. The Phantom had come to Texarkana... and the nightmare was only just beginning. ▶

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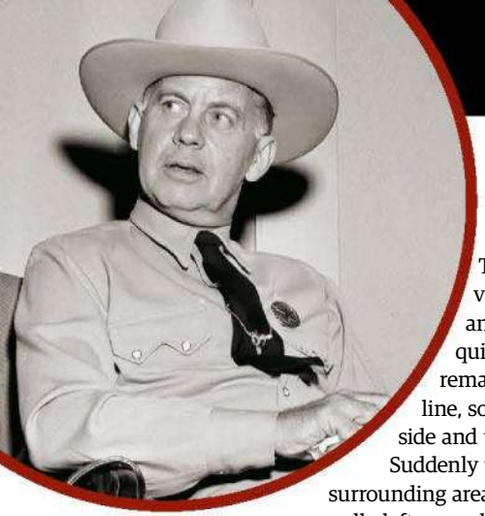


ABOVE Manuel T Gonzaullas, the Texas Ranger who headed the hunt for the Phantom Killer

BELOW-LEFT Law enforcement hunt for clues on Morris Lane, near where Booker's body was discovered

BELOW-RIGHT 'Lone Wolf' Gonzaullas points to a bullet hole at the home of Virgil and Katy Star

For the next four months, the twin cities of Texarkana found themselves shaken to their very core by a series of horrific homicides. With an agriculture-based economy, it was a rural and quiet area with a population of roughly 40,000. It remains a unique community, straddling the state line, so that one Texarkana is located on the Texas side and the other on the Arkansas side.

Suddenly the population of Texarkana and the surrounding areas became consumed by terror. Windows usually left open during the hot nights were now shut. Doors were firmly bolted. The citizens were living in fear of an enigmatic figure who seemed to vanish as quickly as he came.

At the very least, Hollis and Larey had been able to escape with their lives, but the Phantom's next victims would not be so lucky. On 24 March, the bodies of 29-year-old Richard L Griffin and 17-year-old Polly Ann Moore were discovered in their car. Both had been shot, evidence found at the scene of the crime suggesting a .32 Colt revolver. Law enforcement concluded that the couple had most likely been killed outside of the car, the bodies placed inside afterwards.

Unusually, the couple's bodies were not autopsied and so much about their deaths remains hearsay. According to Joseph Geringer, in one of the most comprehensive pieces of research surrounding the Phantom for the Crime Library, rumours abound as to whether Moore, like Larey, was also a victim of sexual assault.

> "Forced to exit the car, the mysterious gunman demanded Hollis remove his britches, threatening to kill him if he disobeyed"

While some contemporary rumours mentioned rape and even torture, the *Texarkana Gazette* remained tight lipped on any details. Geringer quotes J Q Mahaffey, its then executive editor as stating that: "[Sexual assault] wasn't made public. You guarded the person who was raped."

However, this element of the murder remains controversial. According to the author Michael Newton in *The Encyclopedia Of Unsolved Crimes*, both bodies were discovered fully dressed. Additionally, he states that recent reports do not show any evidence that Moore was assaulted.

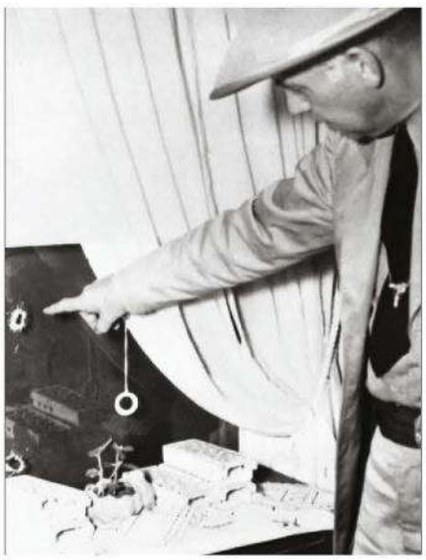
By this point Texarkana was awash with speculation. This vicious homicide, so similar in nature to the earlier lovers' lane attack, had citizens nervously eyeing their neighbours. Then, a mere three weeks after the murder of Griffin and Moore, the Phantom struck again. This time his victims were 17-year-old Paul Martin and 15-year-old Betty Jo Booker. Martin had purportedly gone to pick the young Booker up from where she was performing in a local band at a Veterans' performance hall.

Martin was discovered first. Found at the side of the road he had been shot once in the hand, once through his ribs, once through the back of his neck and once through his nose. Two miles away, the police found Booker, her body sheltered behind a tree – she had been shot twice. Once again, the police discovered a shell that pointed to the murder weapon as having been a .32 Colt automatic. Evidence found during the autopsy suggested Booker had been sexually assaulted.

Now, the town of Texarkana began to panic. It became apparent that somewhere, in their sleepy little community was a monster, waiting to strike again. The *Texarkana Gazette* emphasised the killer's apparent ability to appear and disappear without a trace, dubbing him 'The Texarkana Phantom' or the 'Phantom Killer'. With the town on the brink of panic and the police seemingly having no clue, help was desperately needed.

That help would arrive in the form of a Texas legend, Manuel Trazazas 'Lone Wolf' Gonzaullas. As a 15-year-old, Gonzaullas's

Image source: wiki/Texarkana Daily News



ZODIAC KILLER

Were the Phantom Killer and the masked terror of San Francisco one and the same?

In San Francisco between 1968 and 1969, a mysterious figure, who referred to himself as the Zodiac killer, murdered at least five people. The Zodiac wrote a number of mocking letters to the police force and sent a series of mysterious cryptograms. Each of these was signed with the Zodiac's calling card, a circle and cross symbol, evocative of the telescopic sight on a rifle. Like the Phantom, the Zodiac killer was never caught.

However, in the decades since theories began to emerge that perhaps the Zodiac and the Phantom were not two separate killers, but one and the same. These theories mostly stem from the exceedingly similar MO of both assailants. The Zodiac also targeted his victims on lovers' lanes and some sources state he used the same weapon as the Phantom. The relatively short time span (15 years) between the two spates of killings means it theoretically could have been the same person. Perhaps most disturbingly the killer was described as wearing a hood, a callback to the Phantom's distinctive appearance?

However, there is debate as to whether the Phantom repeatedly wore a hood and either way, the mask described by Hollis and Larey was far different to the one purportedly worn by the Zodiac. Other sources claim the Zodiac's weapon of choice was also different. Whereas the Phantom used a .32 calibre, they state Zodiac used a semi automatic pistol. Additionally, if you believe Youell Swinney to be the Phantom Killer, then he was in jail at the time of the Zodiac murders.

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ABOVE A family sits with a shotgun by the couch, an example of the fear that had swept through Texarkana

ABOVE-RIGHT A resident of Texarkana setting traps to warn her of the Phantom's approach

family had been the victim of a brutal attack by bandits. There, in front of his eyes, his two brothers had been slaughtered. This horrific event had a profound effect on the young man and after serving as a major in the Mexican Army, he joined the Texas Rangers, age 29. He quickly developed a ruthless reputation for crime fighting and earned himself the nickname Lone Wolf. This was due to his reputation for tracking down violent criminals single-handedly.

In describing Gonzaullas, J Q Mahaffey of the *Texarkana Gazette* stated years later that he was "without a doubt the best-looking man I have ever seen. He was of Spanish extraction and wore a spotless khaki suit and a white, ten-gallon hat. He packed two pearl-handled revolvers and brought with him all the legends of the Texas Rangers."

However Gonzaullas's looks and charm soon began to cause problems. "He was so good looking that the girl reporters couldn't leave him alone," Mahaffey continued. "He was too busy giving out interviews and trying to run the gazette. All the other officers on the case became rather jealous of the Lone Wolf and complained bitterly every time his picture appeared in the paper."

ABOVE A woman moves her family into a hotel while her husband is away

ABOVE-RIGHT With panic gripping the town, stores sold out of guns and ammunition

Gonzaullas's arrival signalled a manhunt and various attempts were made to catch the killer in their midst. One involved Booker's saxophone. Realising it had been with her during the assault but was now missing, checks were made of pawn and music shops. However, the lead was eventually revealed to be a dead end. On 24 October, Booker's saxophone was discovered hidden in a field close to where her body had been discovered. In all likelihood it had been there since she died.

As well as having to catch a killer, Gonzaullas also had to deal with a city on the brink of panic. To the annoyance of Mahaffey, he once stated during an interview that the best the population of Texarkana could do to protect themselves was to "check the locks and bolts on their doors and get a double-barrelled shotgun to take care of any intruder who tried to get in." Sales of firearms sky-rocketed.

The fear even spread outside Texarkana with John Norman, a teenager living in New Boston (roughly 20 miles from Texarkana) stating: "That summer we were afraid to sleep with windows open. Rumours were rife about sightings and near misses." Another teenager at the time, James Grigson, stated that: "There

was a kind of mass fear that I've not seen since. The murders were all the adults talked about."

Classmates of Martin and Booker sought to take matters into their own hands. If the police couldn't catch the killer, then they would do so themselves. The enraged teens set about patrolling lovers' lanes, hunting for the Phantom. Meanwhile, local law enforcement hit upon the bright idea of placing decoys in cars, armed of course, while other officers waited in hiding should the Phantom make an appearance. At the behest of Gonzaullas, local organisations began putting money towards potential rewards for any citizen who may have information regarding the killer.

By May a month had passed since the killer had last struck and law enforcement seemed no closer to catching the enigmatic Phantom. With armed officers and vigilantes patrolling the streets, Texarkana had quickly become an exceedingly dangerous place to be. Was it possible that this flurry of activity had scared the Phantom off? Gone to ground, never to be seen again? If the people of Texarkana were beginning to think it was all over, they couldn't have been more wrong.

On the night of Friday 3 May, 35-year-old Virgil Starks was shot dead. The Starks lived in a remote isolated farmhouse, some 12 miles from Texarkana. His wife, Katy, was upstairs in bed when she heard the sound of smashing glass. Running downstairs, she barely had time to register the sight of her husband's corpse and move towards the phone before a bullet slammed into her jaw.

Despite suffering immense pain, Katy still lived and summoning all her strength managed to make her way to the door. In the kitchen, the Phantom reportedly howled and screamed as he attempted to force his way into the house.

With what little strength she had left, Katy managed to flee. First escaping to her sister's, she discovered no one was home but still managed to run to a nearby farmhouse. From here she was able to sound the alarm and was taken to the hospital.

When the police reached the Starks' residence they found a terrifying sight inside. According to Geringer, the killer had dipped his hands into pools of Virgil Starks' blood, smearing them over the walls and furniture. Despite using dogs to follow the attacker's scent for 200 yards up the road, they eventually lost it and once again the Phantom disappeared into the night.

When Texarkana law enforcement descended upon the Starks' farmhouse they noticed several disturbing inconsistencies with the earlier attacks. Firstly, the gun used was not the Phantom's signature Colt .32 but was in fact a Colt .22. This, along with the fact that the Starks were in their thirties and were attacked in their own home as opposed to a 'lovers' lane' location, caused some to question whether this was even the work of the Phantom.

> "Now, over 75 years since those terrible murders, it seems unlikely that the true identity of the Phantom Killer will ever be known"

THE TOWN THAT DREADED SUNDOWN

The moonlight murders have hit the screen twice with the same name

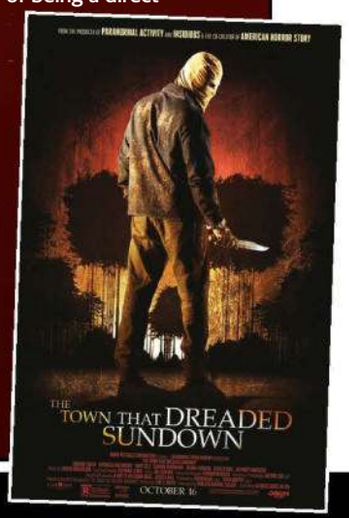
1976 In 1976, the murders were immortalised in film when enterprising Texarkana filmmaker Charles B Pierce directed *The Town That Dreaded Sundown*. In 1972 Pierce had helmed the independent hit, *The Legend Of Boggy Creek*, a docu-drama based on Arkansas legend surrounding the Fouke Monster, a bigfoot-like creature. He continued writing and directing low-budget films, usually in Arkansas. Eventually, he hit upon the idea of bringing the Phantom Killer to the big screen.

The film was only loosely based upon reality. One added sequence features a victim brutally killed by a knife strapped to the end of a trombone. An evocative image, but one far removed from the truth. The film also features an elaborate finale where Morales (the Gonzaullas substitute) chases the killer through the woods, only for him to escape. Every Halloween since 2003, a tradition has emerged where the film is shown in Texarkana.

IN 1946 THIS MAN KILLED FIVE PEOPLE...
TODAY HE STILL LURKS THE STREETS OF TEXARKANA, ARK.
"THE TOWN THAT DREADED SUNDOWN"
A TRUE STORY
BEN JOHNSON

2014 In 2014 horror mega-producer Jason Blum and the mastermind behind *Glee*, Ryan Murphy, joined forces to helm a reboot of the original film, this time directed by Alfonso Gomez-Rejon. However, instead of being a direct remake, this new version took the innovative approach of telling the story of a series of contemporary copycat murders in a world where the original film exists.

This allows the film to recreate some of the original's more shocking moments, including the aforementioned trombone sequence, while telling an original story. This new version even opens on a Halloween showing of the original film. Unfortunately, the film received largely mixed reviews with a number of unfavourable comparisons to Wes Craven's 1996 slasher *Scream*.



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FAR-LEFT Many businesses lost customers, especially at night

MIDDLE Officers inspected cars and warned vigilante groups of teenagers

LEFT A ranger was even sent to Corpus Christi by plane to arrest a suspect

Despite these discrepancies, the attack on the Starks' home has since become an accepted part of the Phantom's horrific legacy.

As the hunt continued, law enforcement soon found themselves with a potential major suspect – 29-year-old Youell Swinney. Swinney was originally under investigation after he failed to pay his rent and it was discovered that he was also using a stolen car.

When apprehended, Swinney appeared nervous and questioned whether the death sentence awaited his crimes. As Janie Jones explained for *AY Magazine*: "A strange question considering at this point he had no reason to think they were arresting him for anything more than car theft." Furthermore, upon capture officers claimed that he had shouted; "Hell, I know what you want me for. You want me for more than stealing a car!" Immediately the lawmen began to question whether they had arrested just a common thief, or had caught the Phantom Killer himself?

Intrigued, Texarkana law enforcement searched the hotel room where Swinney had been temporarily living with his wife Peggy, and they discovered a shirt with the laundry marking of 'STARK' on the pocket. They also found residue which was said to match samples from Virgil Starks' welding shop. According to author James Presley in *The Phantom Killer*, during the attack at the Starks' home, "the killer broke in like an experienced burglar, which Swinney was, having served reformatory time for burglary as a youth."

However, the most damning evidence came from Swinney's wife, Peggy. While he refused to talk (even under the use of drugs), she apparently confirmed their darkest suspicions. She implicated Swinney in the murders of Paul Martin and Betty Jo Booker, claiming he had left their car in that vicinity for around an hour during which time she had heard gunshots. She also stated he claimed to have been given the elusive saxophone and sold it. Most concerningly, Peggy made reference to a Date Book found at the scene of the crime, a detail that at the time had not been made public and was only known by Sheriff Bill Presley.

But there were several holes in the concept of Swinney being the Phantom Killer. The first is that no fingerprints could be found linking Swinney to any of the murders, and nothing resembling the murder weapon could be found among his belongings. According to Michael Newton in *The Texarkana Moonlight Murders*, the writing on the shirt was said to have been partly faded and so no one could actually be sure whether it did indeed say 'STARK' or in fact said 'STARR'. There were even questions surrounding the residue found in the pocket – it was certainly similar, but not exact.

When Peggy recanted her confession, the police had no choice but to settle for a lifetime sentence as a habitual offender. In 1973 however Swinney was released when it was discovered that his previous conviction in 1941 had been carried out without him being represented by a counsel. As this conviction was partially based on that, it was now void. He passed away in 1994 at age 77.

After the murder and attempted murder of Virgil and Katy Starks, silence once again fell upon the town of Texarkana. Evidence suggests that Gonzaullas continued to hunt for the Phantom until at least 1960, all to no avail. Now, over 75 years since those terrible murders, it seems unlikely that the true identity of the Phantom Killer will ever be known.

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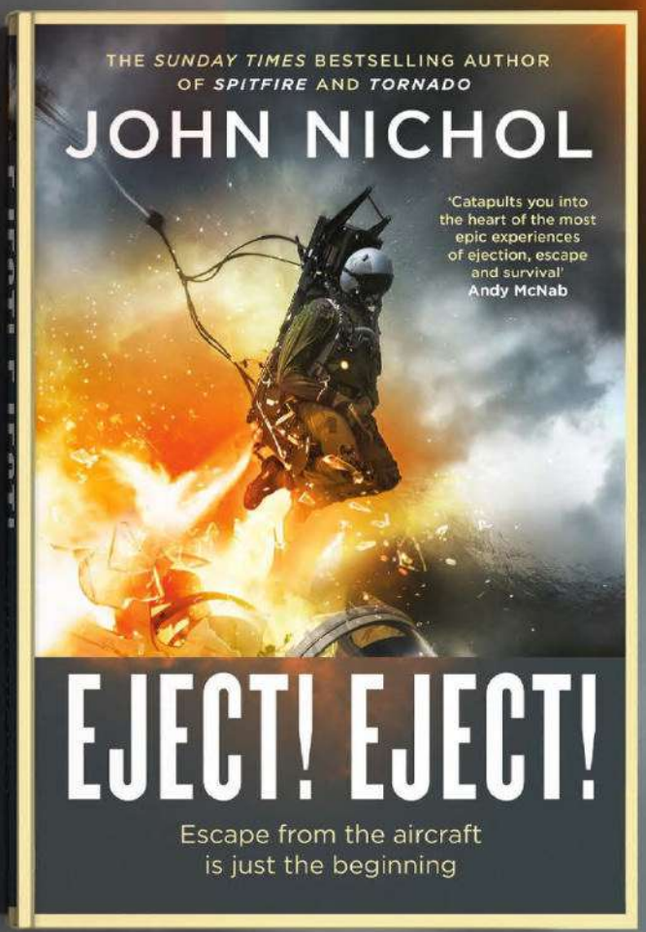
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JOHN NICHOL
'Catapults you into the heart of the most epic experiences of ejection, escape and survival'
Andy McNab
EJECT! EJECT!
Escape from the aircraft is just the beginning

©Getty Images

THE FIRST SHOGUN

How an exile took power in an age of murderous intrigue and a teetering empire

Written by Miguel Miranda

For all its majesty and splendour, the imperial court of Kyoto was awash in vengeful plots hatched by the feuding bloodlines that crowded the austere palace. For almost 300 years the era known as Heian, where the former capital of Nara was moved further north to Kyoto, dubbed *Heian-kyo* to lend it an air of magnificence, featured shaky alliances that dampened the risks of civil war. As an antidote to factionalism the emperors cultivated an excess of refinement; frivolous art and gracious manners served as a thin veneer hiding the bad blood among these sovereigns and their jealous kin. Contrasting this was the emergence of the *samurai*, or the ones *who served*, in the beginning of the 9th century as a distinct social class and ad hoc national army. The edification of *bushido* as a code of ethics and martial jurisprudence helped distinguish Japanese society from its neighbours as its civilisation spread over the main island of Honshu and reached Hokkaido, which was beyond government control in previous eras.

But samurai and their fealty to regional clans were a bigger headache than they appeared. For Emperor Go-Shirakawa his own safety was at stake when he enlisted two samurai clans of imperial descent, meaning their respective founders were born in the imperial household, to defend Kyoto against any upstart. Where once the Fujiwara clan had entwined themselves in the imperial household by the middle of the 12th century, Go-Shirakawa elevated his favourites, the Heike clan, to the highest offices in the land. Of course, this meant eliminating the Heike's main rivals – the elite Genji clan – in a brief civil war. Their family names were the Taira and the Minamoto, respectively.

Go-Shirakawa assured his survival by patronising the Tairas. But it came at a steep price. He abdicated in 1158, ending just four short years on the throne, so that Taira favourites could assume the imperial rank. This process enriched the Taira family and their paternal head, Kiyomori, who almost had the power of life and death over the ineffective emperors under his thumb. Taira Kiyomori's main rival Minamoto Yoshitomo died in battle in 1160. His family, heirs and other sons were driven to exile and near ruin. To spare him from assassination the youthful Minamoto heir Yoritomo lived under the protection of the distant Hojo clan. In the meantime, for 20 years the Taira clan were

untouchable and successfully maintained a subtle but unrelenting grip on the imperial court. In those same 20 years, however, the embittered Minamotos never stopped plotting their revenge.

BURNING BRIDGES, WARRIOR MONKS

It was the machinations of Go-Shirakawa that triggered the epic struggle lasting nearly a decade in what became known as the Genpei War. Within his own circle many pointless schemes were put together to loosen the Taira's stranglehold on Kyoto. It did not help that the current Emperor Takakura, a pliable weakling, approved to sideline the rightful heir Prince Mochihito. This petty humiliation inflicted with the full approval of Taira Kiyomori, who in all likelihood arranged the charade, led to the emperor's sudden abdication and the rise of Antoku as the new emperor. In a bizarre state of affairs Emperor Antoku was just an infant at the time, a grandson of Taira Kiyomori, and this farce guaranteed that true influence was in the hands of the Taira family who now staffed the government.

The process was well underway years before when Go-Shirakawa abdicated in 1158 and deepened in the ensuing 20 years. In private, Go-Shirakawa resented how the Taira maintained their grip on the imperial family, whether through marriage or cronyism, but his own privileged life could not endure without their support. His wronged son, the humiliated Mochihito had other ideas and set about rallying allies for an attempted *coup d'etat* in the usual fashion: a full-fledged assault of Kyoto that would force the imperial court to change its mind. Among the prince's backers were the courageous Minamoto Yorimasa. The rest of the Minamoto clan were receptive to the prince as well but Minamoto Yoritomo, the heir of the vanquished Yoshitomo, had built an alliance through marriage with the Hojo clan of Izu and preferred biding his time than striking immediately.

In the summer of 1180 Prince Mochihito expected an entire army to besiege Kyoto and sweep away the Taira for good. Yorimasa was a man of his word and led his troops westward across the Kanto Plain to reach the former capital Nara where they had sworn allies among the *sohei* or the militias employed by sprawling Buddhist monasteries in

> "The Taira were vengeful adversaries and set fire to the Buddhist temples as part of their reprisals"

the metropolis. The whole endeavour was folly. Ill-prepared and lacking in allies, the Minamoto army and the warrior monks who joined them got crushed by the Taira army at Izu, where the two factions clashed on opposite ends of a wooden bridge. The Taira were vengeful adversaries and set fire to the Buddhist temples in Todaiji and Miidera as part of their reprisals. Mochihito died that same month but the Minamoto clan now had a war of revenge to prosecute. Setting up his stronghold north east of the Izu peninsula, at the seaside village of Kamakura, Minamoto Yoritomo rallied his brothers and cousins along with allied clans the Fujiwara, Hojo, Miura, and Kiso as well as Buddhist monasteries outraged by the Taira's atrocities. Arrayed against them were the Taira and their own allies, the Takeda, Oba, and Seno clans.

FIGHT TO THE FINISH

While Minamoto Yoritomo established his headquarters at Kamakura, his half-brothers Yoshitsune and Noriyori took their rightful places as commanders in his samurai legions. The three of them had all suffered from Taira Kiyomori's spitefulness - their youths spent in exile after their father was killed. A form of karmic justice did visit the leader of the Taira who fell ill in 1181 and soon passed away. The death of Kiyomori left the imperial court vulnerable as the Emperor Antoku was barely a year old and the aging Go-Shirakawa had no love for the Tairas after they imprisoned him in a castle. Since the Genpei War pitted two coalitions against each other, the Taira - with their seat of government in Kyoto surrounded by hills and with access to the sea thanks to the Yodo River - enjoyed the upper hand for two and a half years. It was not until the battle of Kurikara in 1183 when the Taira army were routed by the tactics of the Minamotos that the tide turned. Forced into a static position to hold a strategic mountain pass, the Taira's opponent Minamoto Kiso Yoshinaka, or Kiso Yoshinaka for short, allowed his commanders Noriyori and Michimori to move around the Taira lines through a ravine and panic the enemy. The plan worked and the ensuing debacle reverberated all the way to Kyoto. By the following year Kiso Yoshinaka led an army to Kyoto and effected a siege. The court of Emperor Antoku fled for their lives and Minamoto victory was assured.

LEFT This well-known portrait of the Shogun Minamoto no Yoritomo subscribes to the usual minimalist style common at the time

ABOVE In this episode of the Genpei War the treacherous general Kiso Yoshinaka (right) flees on horseback while protected by his lover, the woman samurai Tomoe Gozen (centre)

All images © Getty Images

MINAMOTO YOSHITSUNE

LEGENDARY SAMURAI

Yoritomo's devoted brother met a gruesome end but lived on as a heroic archetype

Japan's oldest samurai appears to exist in more detail outside history rather than in it. Almost everything known about him, in fact, comes from fictional retellings authored by monks years after his death by suicide. Among the half-sons of Minamoto Yoshitomo, who were vanquished by the cruel Taira and their allies, Yoshitsune was raised in obscurity but grew into a fine warrior and a champion of his brother, Yoritomo the would-be shogun. At least this is how Japan's historical fiction describes the late Heian era, most famously in the *Heike Monogatari*, a romantic epic that centres Yoshitsune as a hero who overcomes many hair-raising odds together with his loyal companion Benkei, a warrior monk. But here lies the problem of Yoshitsune as a historical figure.

These facts are beyond dispute: Yoshitsune did participate in the major engagements of the Genpei War from 1180 until 1185. His greatest battles featured the Minamoto and their allies tested to their limits. Unlike other samurai heroes Yoshitsune fought on land and at sea. During the last desperate campaign against the Taira in their fortress hideaway, Yoshitsune chased them out of their stronghold. He then led a fleet of ships to pursue the Taira survivors who perished in the waters off Shimonoseki.

His own relationship with his brother Yoritomo was never described at length other than one of unquestioning fealty. In 1198, however, with Yoritomo consolidating his grip on power, Yoshitsune went into exile among the Fujiwaras. Doing so was a fatal mistake. With nothing but contempt and suspicion from his brother Yoritomo, the disgraced Yoshitsune agreed to perform *hara-kiri* or ritualised suicide. Barely three years later Yoritomo was recognised as shogun. His brother, on the other hand, became Japan's best known literary character second only to Prince Hikaru Genji.

Yet an empty imperial palace inspired fresh mischief and Go-Shirakawa, now unshackled - physically and politically - from the Taira's influence, agreed to let a grandson of his named Go-Toba ascend the throne in exchange for rewarding Kiso Yoshinaka with rank and spoils. In another farcical twist in Japan's imperial system there was a fresh child emperor installed in Kyoto while the Taira's chosen emperor Antoku, barely four years old, was now a fugitive. This baffling contrast infuriated Minamoto Yoritomo in Kamakura and he ordered his armies to vanquish the upstart commander Kiso Yoshinaka who had the gall to assume the title *seii tai shogun*, an honorific once used for campaigning generals in the north. Kiso Yoshinaka suffered a miserable end when Yoshitsune and other Minamoto forces ran him out of Kyoto. During his last stand his companion, the woman samurai Tomoe Gozen, sprang to his defence and

ABOVE A vivid illustration shows the regalia of samurai at war. In this particular work the would-be shogun Yoritomo interrogates his brother, the commander Yoshitsune

felled at least a few Minamoto samurai. But neither Tomoe nor Yoshinaka were spared from Yoritomo's wrath.

The Taira family had escaped to coastal fortress Ichi-no-Tani south west of Kyoto. Pursuing them were the cavalry of Yoshitsune who were too few to give battle or effect a siege. This is where valuable intelligence played a decisive role. In the hours before sunrise on 18 March 1184 a group of Minamoto samurai descended a steep hillside and reached an unprotected gate to the fortress. The Taira army panicked and the imperial household, the child Emperor Antoku and his grandmother among them, escaped once again.

> "On 25 April 1185 the Taira family perished at sea and the imperial throne had no contenders"

Refusing to spare the enemy any respite, Yoshitsune continued his pursuit and defeated the last Taira army at Yashima in the east. Hundreds of ships were gathered to hunt down the Taira and their child emperor in case they sought exile in Kyushu, the largest southern island of Japan. During a naval battle in the waters between Shimonoseki and the Honshu coast the Taira and Minamoto had their climactic showdown; Yoshitsune and his fellow commanders were unstoppable. On 25 April 1185 the Taira family perished at sea and the boy Antoku presumably drowned. The imperial throne had no contenders.

THE NEW ERA

With the Taira eliminated in dramatic fashion Yoritomo wasted no time asserting his authority with the help of his allies. Having reached his 40th year and with his main rivals destroyed in the process, Yoritomo achieved the impossible from circumstances of extreme difficulty. Caution and prudence were traits that served him well in the past and a number of years went by until he arranged a true Shogunate, the first of its kind, with the child emperor's blessing. The new regime that came about had three pillars – the feudal lords and their retainers, the Buddhist priesthood in their temples, and the administrative stronghold of Kamakura. Once an out-of-the-way coastal village southeast of Edo, the long presence of Yoritomo's headquarters transformed it into a second capital. While the Emperor Go-Tobu agreed to occupy the splendid court at Kyoto the *bakufu* or military government was centred in Kamakura. In a matter of years a lively metropolis took shape with Yoritomo encouraging public works and the deification of Buddhist cosmology.

But for all its martial splendour the first Shogun's reign was brief, lasting from 1192 until 1199. Yoritomo, as is common among warlords who aggrandise power and wealth, relied on a small circle of favourites to watch over his regime. Soon he was quarrelling with his own kin and went as far as arranging the downfall of his devoted brother Yoshitsune, forced into exile and then suicide. Shogun Yoritomo passed away at 52 years old in the eighth year of the *bakufu* with no credible heirs. His replacements were two young sons who served as proxies for the Hojo clan, the same family that once protected him in Izu, and they acted very much like the Tairas before them by accumulating influence and titles. The Kamakura Shogunate peaked early and met an abrupt end by 1333 as another civil war boiled over. After the longer reign of the Ashikaga Shogunate Japan slid into the dreadful *Sengoku Jidai*, or the 'warring states' era that stretched for more than a century, where samurai clans fought bitterly over their domains. The imperial court in Kyoto was laid to waste in 1467 and it was not until 1603 that another shogunate was born – the Tokugawas.

The importance of the first shogunate to rule Japan is twofold. It created a new form of government that, for all its faults, was a practical status quo in a feudal society that propped up a weak imperial throne. The second innovation was the permanent status of samurai as a social class that held the country together, for better or worse, through centuries. From both trends rose the edifice of a 'medieval' Japan rich in art and gifted with a distinct civilisation that endured until the 19th century. For these reasons the Kamakura era is recognised for its own unique contributions to Japanese nationhood.

ABOVE The Taira are the villains of the Genpei War. At least that is how the stories are written. For this 20th century painting the schemer Taira Kiyomori is tormented by visions of hell

LEFT Dramatised paintings of the Genpei War immortalised its place in Japanese history. Minamoto Yoshitsune was cast as its unfailing hero, a terror to his enemies and saviour of the distressed

INSET A dramatic statue of the Shogun Yoritomo fighting on horseback depicts the rarest skill among samurai – archery on the move!

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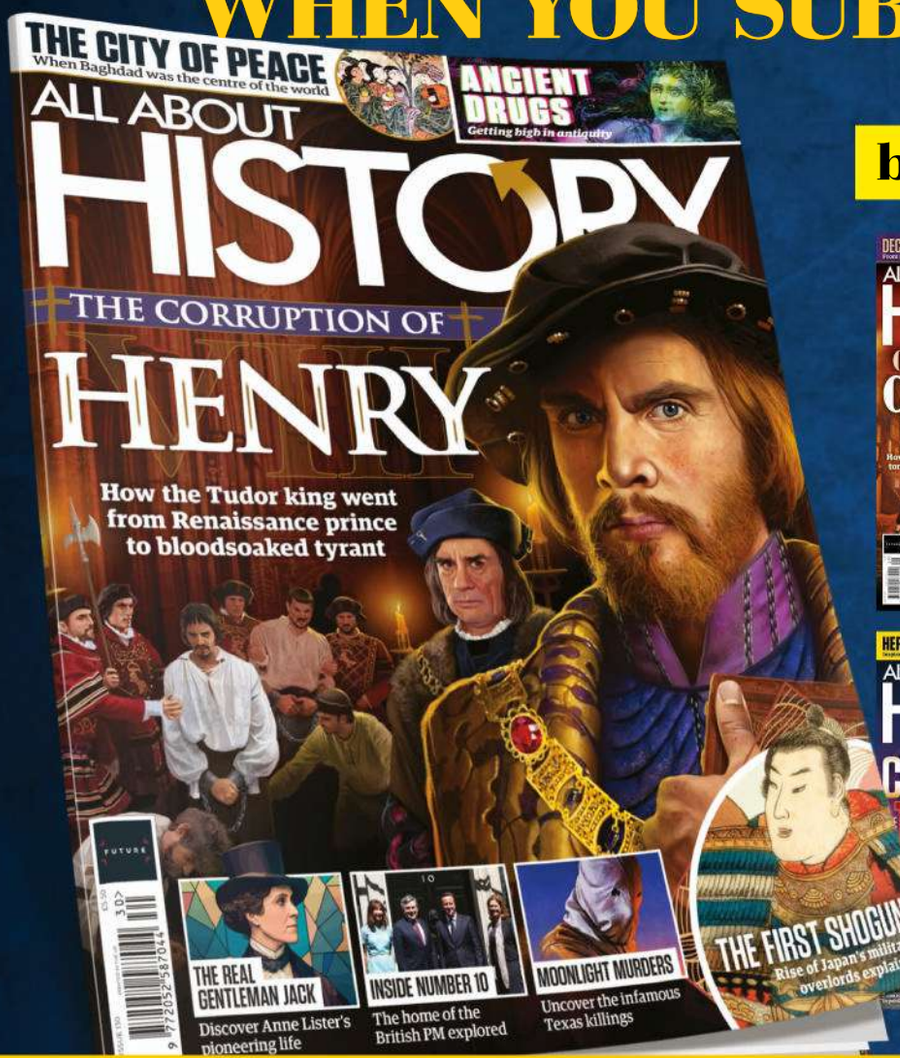
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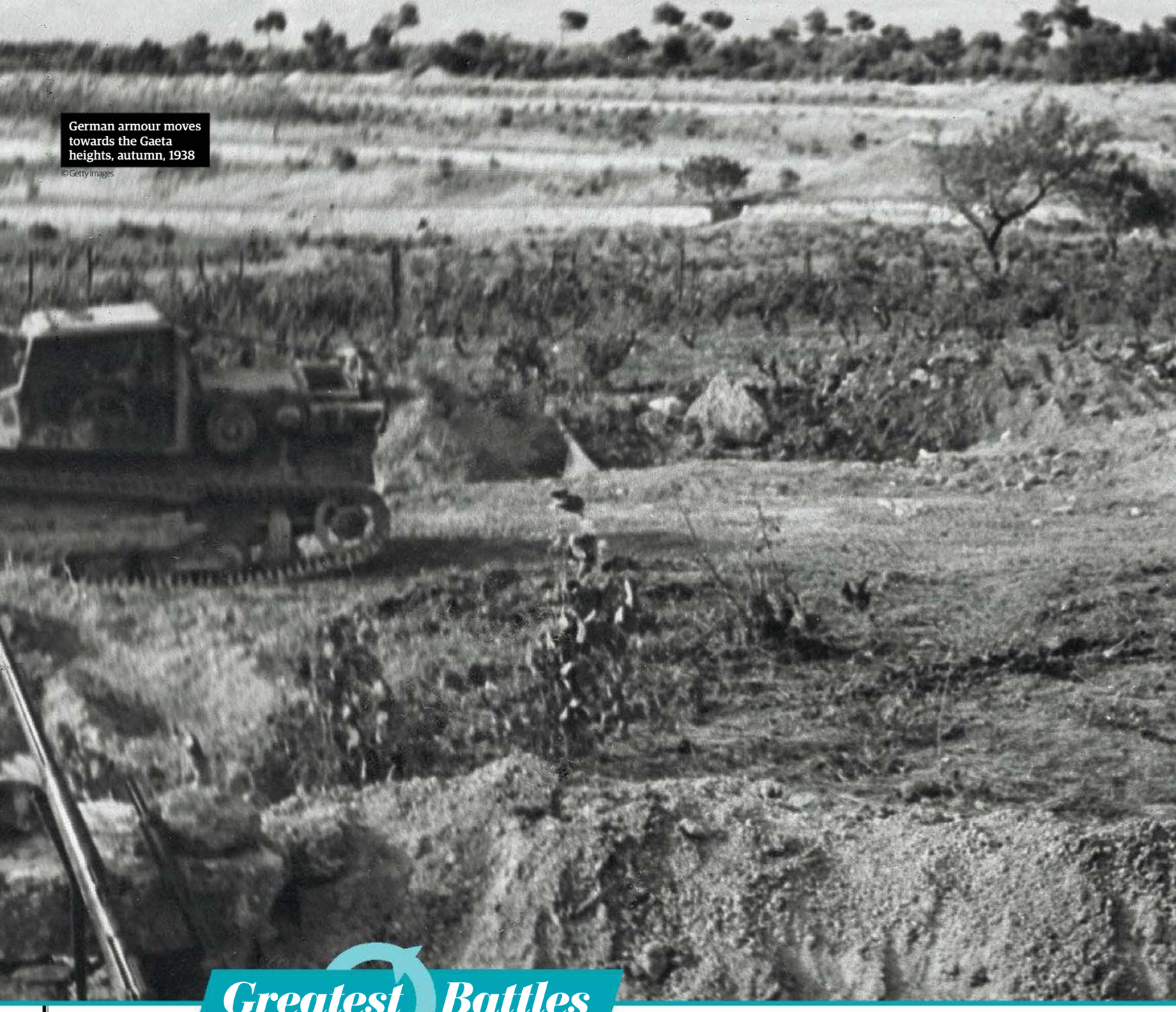

German armour moves towards the Gaeta heights, autumn, 1938

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Greatest Battles

BATTLE OF THE EBRO

EBRO RIVER, CATALONIA, JULY–NOVEMBER 1938

Written by Jules Stewart

The death knell of the Spanish Republic was sounded on the banks of the Ebro River in Catalonia, the scene of the longest battle of the civil war and the bloodiest in Spain's long history of warfare. By the time the attack was launched on 25 July, the Nationalist insurgents were already confident of their ultimate victory. The Battle of Teruel, fought between December 1937 and February 1938, had exhausted the resources of the Republican army. Given their slender supplies of material and with the French frontier closed to retreat, it was rash of the Republican commanders to choose this time to embark on an offensive. The lack of forethought meant that the Republican drive across the Ebro was doomed to come to grief.

The rationale for taking this action was to stop Franco's advance on Valencia. The Popular Front

©Getty Images

International Brigade soldiers with a Russian PM M1910 machine gun, during the Spanish Civil War

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Republican soldiers cross the Ebro River during the Battle of the Ebro

government had left Madrid to establish their new headquarters in Valencia in November 1936. When the Nationalist campaign on the city began, in March 1939 Prime Minister Juan Negrín and his Cabinet Valencia made their final stand in Barcelona. The Ebro campaign saved the port city from capture but only temporarily, as it fell into Franco's hands only a few weeks after the government's departure.

On the eve of the Ebro offensive, Republican troops resembled a corps of professional soldiers, for almost the first time since war had broken out in July 1936. They followed orders and the structure of a chain of command, rather than acting as the largely irregular and ill-disciplined militiamen of early days. Many of these men, a large number of them only teenagers, were to be involved in the amphibious crossing of the River Ebro. On an international level, there were hopes that political winds might be blowing in the Republic's favour, with tension increasing over Nazi Germany's demands to annex the Sudetenland. A new world war was in the offing, one which Republican leader Negrín desperately hoped would bring Britain and France to his aid.

On the morning of 24 July, as final preparations for the attack were underway, Negrín warned the Republican war council in Barcelona of the need for the assault, arguing that Valencia would be lost unless there were a diversionary action elsewhere. The basic strategy was to hit the Nationalists' salient to the sea by forcing a passage across the Ebro at several points about 60 miles from the Mediterranean coast.

The Ebro gamble, which the Republic set into motion on the back of these assumptions, did not pay off. A force of about 100,000 men was supported by 70 to 80 field batteries and 27 anti-aircraft guns. All the leading commanders were Communist Party militants.

Franco's decision to attack Valencia instead of advancing on the far bigger prize of Barcelona was hotly contested by members of his general staff. There were even hushed murmurs among high-ranking officers about removing him from command. There was some justification for this malcontent. Relieving the pressure on Barcelona enabled the Republican army to reorganise at the end of spring and beginning of summer 1938. With the mobilising of new drafts, the Republic's chief of general staff Vicente Rojo drew up a plan to unite

A Spanish propaganda poster from the Spanish Civil War, the text reads: 'Defending Madrid is Defending Catalonia'

© Getty Images

the severed link between Levante and Catalonia by means of the all-out offensive along the Ebro River. Rojo's objective in planning this operation was to deal the enemy a definitive blow in order to lift the threat on Valencia. In doing so, the avuncular, bespectacled general argued he would seize the initiative from the Nationalist forces and reverse the course of the war.

On the night of 24-25 July, shortly after midnight, with no moon, several units of the Republican army under the command of the charismatic Communist General Enrique Líster began crossing the river in boats. The Battle of the Ebro, the longest and harshest of the whole war, was underway. The crossing points had been proposed by Michael Dunbar, the chief of staff of the XV International Brigade and graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge. As an aside, as late as 1942 complaints were raised in the British Parliament that despite having led more than 100,000 men at the Ebro, Dunbar ranked as a mere sergeant in the British Army.

The crossing of the Ebro was from the outset a remarkable military operation. The 600-mile Ebro is the longest river running entirely in Spain. It is a mighty waterway, resembling along much of the army's crossing points a perilous monster poised to devour anyone who ventures into its waters. Republican troops on the east bank spent weeks assembling boats and pontoon bridges and, in many cases, learning to swim. It was then easy work for Francoist spies to pass on this information to the Nationalist troops dug in on the left bank of the river, waiting in full readiness for the impending assault.

The cracks in the Republic's battle strategy began to show before the operation got underway. The date originally set for the amphibian assault was the night of 22-23 July. A shortage of artillery pieces and reserve ammunition made it necessary to delay the attack by 24 hours. Francoist spies were therefore able to relay this intelligence to the Nationalist commanders, thus depriving the Republican forces of the benefit of tactical surprise. Negrín had been informed of the army's need to stock up on equipment and supplies. In spite of the precarious situation, he was not prepared to grant a further delay.

The assault began at a quarter past midnight, following the plan devised by Dunbar. Units under Tagüeña made the crossing at points positioned between the towns of Mequinenza and Fayón. Líster and the V Army launched a simultaneous attack at several points between an arc formed by Fayón and Cherta, as well as the more important target of Amposta, 30 miles south near the sea. 100 small boats, each carrying eight men, five pontoon bridges and another five of various construction had been assembled. Officers made the passage at the head of their men. Material would follow over the bridges, once they were safely swung across the river. Dunbar, who was witness to the events, reported that a tank became jammed on one of these bridges and delayed the shipment of materiel. It was a dark omen – had it not been for this mishap, the Republican attack could have at least reached Alcañiz, well inland in the province of Teruel.

The north flank at Mequinenza-Fayón and Amposta to the south were considered secondary objectives. They were put under attack as a diversionary tactic, to distract the enemy's attention from the main offensive taking place between Riba-roja and Benifallet to halt the Nationalist drive on Valencia. Units of the Republican 3rd Division swiftly surrounded Riba-roja and by dawn the Francoist forces holding out in the village had surrendered. At the same time, other detachments of the 3rd captured a large petrochemical plant and marched on to the village of Flix on the banks of the Ebro. All was going well, or so it seemed. But then the Republican advance in the southern sector was stopped at Amposta, with a high loss in men and armaments. What was left of the units were forced to retreat across the river. The centre fared somewhat better at first. The Francoist forces were caught by surprise, not anticipating a major attack in this sector. Ascó and Flix were occupied and a dozen other villages in the insurgents' hands fell to the Republican army. Nobody imagined on that heady morning that Flix was taken with relative ease, that four months

Ruins of the town of Belchite, near to Zaragoza in the Aragon region

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Francisco Franco eating at his headquarters during the Battle of the Ebro, 1938

later this was to be the retreating point for the last remnants of the Republican forces, bringing to an end the Battle of the Ebro.

A portent of what lay in store for the Republican army was the near destruction of the 42nd Division, which was in the first wave across with 9,500 troops. A fortnight later they returned to their base on the river's right bank with less than half their men: 12,000 losses, 1,000 killed for each day of fighting on a single front. As early as the end of July, foreign correspondents covering the Spanish Civil War were sending home dispatches that spoke of faltering hopes of a Republican victory. A story published by *The New York Times* three days after the crossing, under the headline 'Ebro Drive Meets Stiffer Resistance' said, "The Spanish Republican's offensive across the Ebro River is still making headway, although its progress has slowed down in the last 48 hours. The Republicans reached positions yesterday a few miles north of Gandesa, about 12 miles south of the Ebro. The latest news was that the insurgents were now holding firm."

In the first three days after the Republican attack, Franco ordered men and guns rushed from Zaragoza Province through Caspe and Alcañiz toward Gandesa, which was threatened from the north and east by Republican forces. Gandesa was a strategic position on the main Tarragona-Alcañiz road and its loss to the Republicans would have had a negative impact on Nationalist morale. The Republicans' nearest base for supplying their forces was the town of Falset in Tarragona Province, more than 20 miles away across the Ebro. This made it difficult to consolidate new positions and push attacks toward Gandesa, Caspe and Alcañiz.

While fierce fighting raged on the ground, Franco's German Luftwaffe allies launched continuous air attacks almost from the day the first Republican contingents set foot in insurgent-held territory. The strategy was to destroy the bridges to cut off any possibility of the Republic sending armoured reinforcements across the river. Republican engineers worked through the night to repair the damage.

There were days in which the Germans dropped a thousand or more tons of explosives on enemy positions. The Nationalist high command ordered the floodgates of several reservoirs opened to render the river impassable for small craft. The Battle of the Ebro was for the Republican military commanders an uncomfortable replay of the battles at Belchite, Brunete and Teruel, in which a rapid loyalist advance was quickly halted, with the Nationalists moving with equal speed to recover lost ground.

The decisive battle took place at Gandesa, the Nationalists' communications centre. Líster had rapidly advanced about 20 miles, taking his brigade within striking distance of the town. All the enemy's main observation points on high ground were captured, along with 4,000 Nationalist prisoners. Franco had meanwhile ordered seven divisional commanders to the front, while Líster

NATIONALISTS

FRANCISCO FRANCO

Franco was a general and leader of the Nationalist forces seeking to overthrow the Spanish Republic, being named Generalísimo in 1936. Seeing an opportunity to crush the Republican army at Ebro, Franco ordered his troops to take the territory rather than advance on Barcelona. In early 1939 the Nationalists moved on Catalonia, taking control by early February.

FIDEL DÁVILA ARRONDO

Franco's minister of National Defense was also a general and was in charge of the Aragon Offensive that looked to isolate Catalonia. Following the civil war he was made minister of the Army. In 1949 he was named as head of the government and participated in the Council of the Kingdom, as well as being president of the Geographic Superior Council, in 1951.

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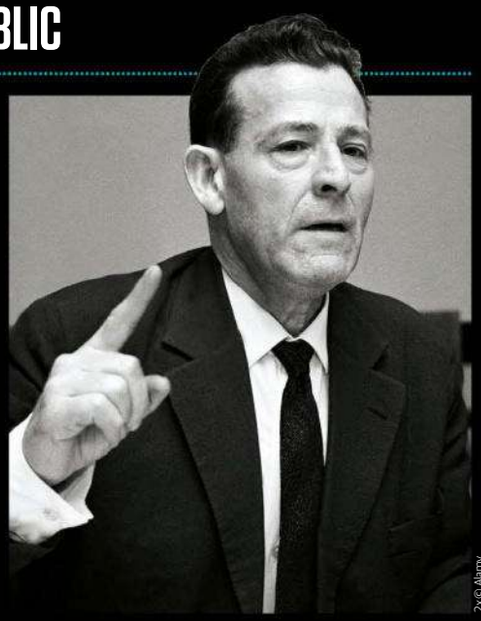
JUAN YAGÜE

Known as the 'Butcher of Badajoz' for ordering the deaths of thousands, including wounded men in hospital beds, Yagüe was a leading figure in the Nationalist army, despite being briefly imprisoned for being critical of Franco in 1938. He was made minister of the Air Force following the civil war and posthumously promoted to commander-in-chief.

REPUBLIC

VICENTE ROJO LLUCH

It was Rojo's plan of action to take on the Francoist forces in the hopes of proving to European partners that the Republic still had some fight left in it. However, the plan faltered as support from abroad was beginning to wane. After the war Rojo moved to South America, but returned to Spain in 1957. It seems Franco held him in high regard, despite being opponents in the war.



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JUAN MODESTO

The Ebro Army of the Republic was formed under Modesto's leadership having been made colonel. He had served in the military before taking up a role in the Communist Party and leading the paramilitary forces, the MAOC. After Ebro he fought in the siege of Madrid and was forced to flee following defeat. He moved to the USSR and served in the Red Army during WWII.

kept up a desperate round-the-clock assault in the stifling August heat. When the Republican advance was contained by the newly arrived insurgent troops, the loyalists began digging in trenches. They suffered devastating high-altitude bombing and low strafing from rebel aircraft and their German allies, with hardly any resistance from the diminished anti-aircraft defences and fighters of their opponents.

On average, 10,000 tons landed every day on Republican positions. When this campaign of deadly attrition had ended, Gandesa was relieved and Franco had gained 150 square miles of newly won territory.

The definitive turning of the tide came on 30 October, when the Nationalists launched their long-awaited counter offensive along the Ebro. The exhausted Republican positions were subjected to incessant bombardment by nearly 200 Nationalist and Italian Fascist batteries and more than 200 aircraft. The Republican air force could muster no more than 50 fighters, which made no impression on this aerial armada. On 3 November, Lieutenant General Alfredo Galera, advancing through the village of Pinell, arrived at the Ebro. All the right flank of the Nationalist army had reached its objective. The Battle of the Ebro was as good as lost. The last Republican defence points were abandoned, while the final stages of the conflict were delayed by the snows of winter. On 16 November the last Republican contingents escaped across the river.

Estimates of casualties vary, but the figure of nearly 100,000 dead and wounded is generally accepted as close to accurate. The Battle of the Ebro cost the loyalist forces about 200 aircraft as well as a great store of military equipment of all kinds, including 1,800 machine-guns and 24,000 rifles. It is beyond dispute that the Republic had lost its army in the north of Spain and with it, the war.

General Francisco Franco at the Battle of the Ebro

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Bot
Gandesa
Cherta
El Pinell de Brai
SIERRA de CARO
EBRO
Amposta
Tortosa
01 Republican plan
The focus of the Republican attack was on the north flank at Mequinenza-Fayón, while targets further south were considered of secondary strategic importance.
02 Early success
The Republican army scored one of its first victories between Riba-roja and Benifallet, raising hopes of success for the offensive.
03 Gateway to Catalonia
A crucial Republican target was the town of Gandesa, a crossroad to Catalonia. The loyalists launched an assault on 30 July, suffering huge losses, but failed due to Nationalist air and artillery superiority.
Front Lines on 23 July 1938 before the Republican offensive began
Furthest advance by Republicans before Nationalists began driving them back from the Mequinenza-Fayón pocket on 6 August 1938
Front lines on 30 September 1938

04 Nationalist counter
The Francoist forces launched a series of counter-offensives, starting on 6 August between Mequinenza and Fayón. German aircraft dropped 50 tons of bombs, forcing the Republican troops back across the river.

05 Taking the heights
On 30 October the Nationalists took the heights of the Cavalls Range and on 2 November they occupied the Pandols Range, reaching the banks of the Ebro the following day.

06 Retreat across the Ebro
On 16 November the last contingents of Republican troops re-crossed the Ebro at Flix, bringing the loyalist campaign to an inglorious end.

"THE CRACKS IN THE REPUBLIC'S BATTLE STRATEGY BEGAN TO SHOW BEFORE THE OPERATION GOT UNDERWAY"

Map by Rocio Espin

What If...

THE CHARTISTS HAD SUCCEEDED?

Winning the vote, and a voice, for the working man would change the political and social structure of Britain forever

Interview by David J Williamson

INTERVIEW WITH

© Vic Clarke

DR VIC CLARKE

Vic is a lecturer in History at the University of Durham, UK. Her chapter on Victorian Britain in the *Routledge Companion to Working-Class Literature* will be published in late 2023.

Working people had gathered enormous momentum by the early part of the 19th century. Cities and towns with their factories and mills devoured the landscape, with a huge volume of labour needed to power the vast and greedy British industrial engine. But with it came frustration at the continued lack of recognition for the vital role of the ordinary working population. No longer willing to be treated as disposable fuel to generate wealth for their bosses, they decided to make their voice heard, with a dream of an equal say in politics, turning a rotten and cruelly unequal society on its head. This took the form of a People's Charter calling for six major electoral reforms.

What would the social, political and economic landscape have looked like if the Chartists had succeeded?

The landscape would have been reshaped significantly. The movement was focused on class above all else, and the notion of labour as property and right to political citizenship. The workhouse system created through the New Poor Law (1834) was a real fear of many working-class labourers who were affected by mechanisation of factories, which pushed them out of work or significantly reduced their wages. It's likely that the 'bastilles' of the workhouse system would have been abolished had the Chartists not only succeeded in getting the vote for working-class people but been able to afford to stand as MPs themselves. While Feargus O'Connor, a radical member of the Irish gentry and leader of the movement, was successful in the Nottingham election of 1847, as just one MP he had little influence in parliament, and so his constituents in the framework knitting, lace-making and mining industries were still plagued by the same issues they had been before. It's also possible that the Tory MPs would have had to significantly change tactics to appeal to this new rise of working-class voters, as they did following the 1867 Reform Act which resulted in a landslide election victory over the Liberals, in part through their appeals to promote working-class football clubs and maintain pub opening hours.

Were the Chartist leaders in danger of just creating another layer of literate elite to control and utilise the votes of the mainly illiterate masses?

The Chartist leaders aimed to improve literacy and education, to ensure not only that working people *could* vote, but could vote in their best interests. The Charter was itself a literary document, and literary culture was huge for the movement, with a flourishing publishing culture. Until the end of the 19th century, 'literacy' was defined as the ability to write one's name on the marriage certificate. In practical terms, this meant that many people could read, if not very well, and this is evident when we consider the boom in Chartist

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RIGHT
Parliament rejected countless petitions from the Chartists

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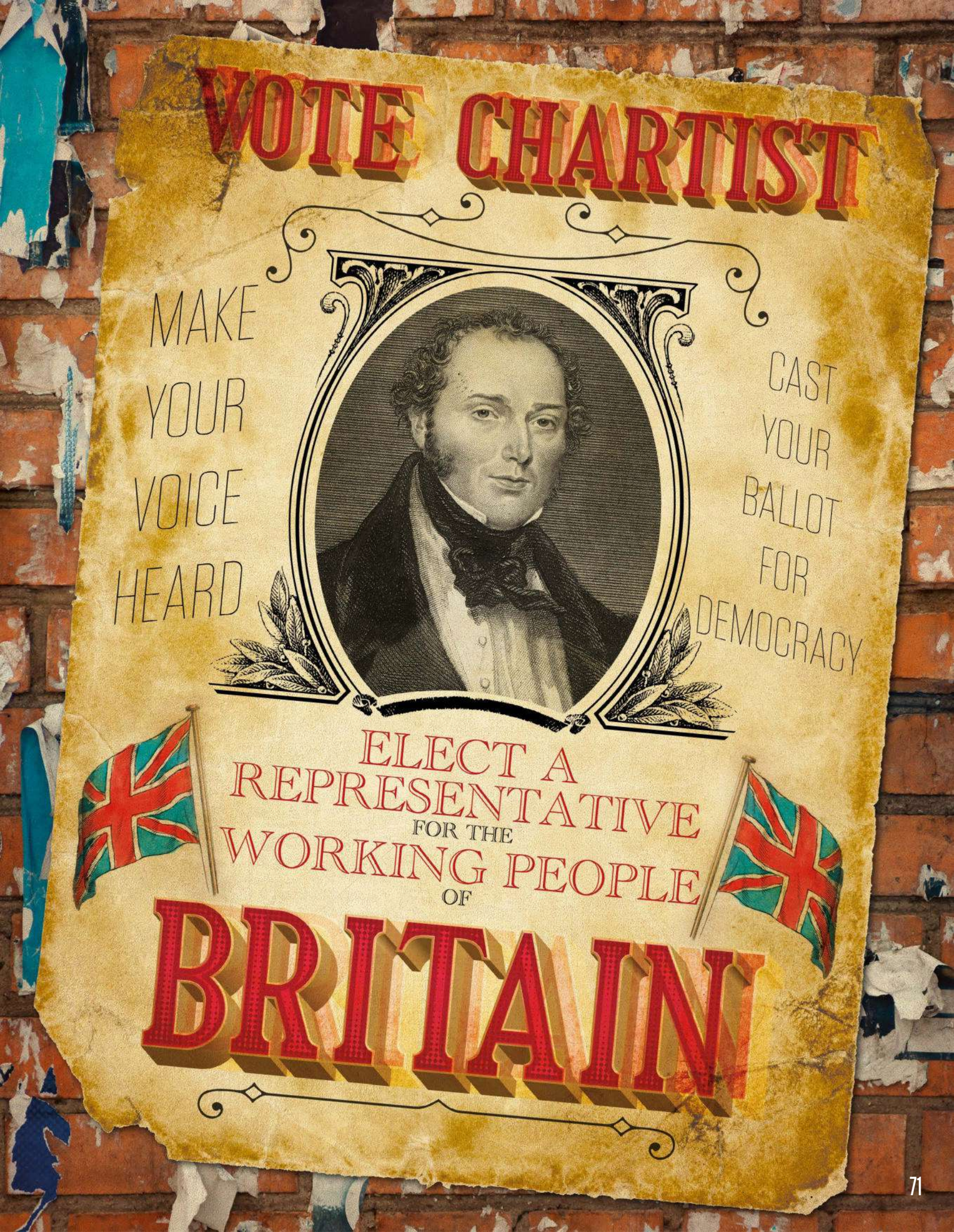

VOTE CHARTIST
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD
CAST YOUR BALLOT FOR DEMOCRACY
ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE WORKING PEOPLE OF
BRITAIN

THE PAST

1838 – 1839

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES

Following the failure of the 1832 Reform Act to abolish the need to own property in order to be a Member of Parliament, a small group of MPs joined forces with others such as the London Working Men's Association to put forward their own proposals. The People's Charter stated six specific demands, including the vote for all adult men. In 1839 there was a National Convention of the Chartists and a petition signed by over one million people was delivered to the Government. Parliament voted not to discuss the petition in the Commons and it was dismissed.

1839

GETTING PHYSICAL

Many parts of the country were answering the call of the Chartist movement, and for some the only way to be heard was through physical action, even armed force. The Chartist John Frost led an armed group against the Westgate Hotel in Newport, Wales, only to be repelled by the soldiers billeted there. Many protesters were shot. Such uprisings did the Chartist cause substantial damage and the authorities were keen to make examples of such behaviour. Frost and two other leaders were sentenced to transportation while in other similar acts of violence many were imprisoned and even shot in the riots.

1842 – 1848

A LOST CAUSE

In 1842 another petition was put to Parliament – this time containing three million signatures – but it was once again rejected. In response to a drop in wages, workers launched a series of strikes, including workers in mines, factories and mills. For those who attacked the plugs of steam boilers in the factories and mills it was the 'Plug Plot' riots, walking in the footsteps of the Luddites some 30 years before and attacking the very machinery that was the embodiment of how their working lives had changed. By 1848 support had started to wane. Money to support the activists dwindled and the refusal of petitions was demoralising to the cause. Things would stay the same, for now.

ABOVE
Chartists could not avoid being figures of fun in the press

periodicals and newspapers from 1837 onwards. Papers such as the Newcastle-based *Northern Liberator*, the Glasgow *Chartist Circular*, and of course, the *Northern Star* had significant readerships, although this did fluctuate. The *Northern Star* became the longest running Chartist paper, spanning 15 years, and for one week in 1839 outselling *The Times*!

For those who couldn't read, communal reading practices were established among peers in local communities. It's estimated that for every copy of the *Northern Star* sold, it had an average of seven readers. WE Adams, who eventually became a journalist himself, recalls in his autobiography that his ageing neighbour Larry would come to the Adams family home "every Sunday morning, as regular as clockwork, with a copy of the *Northern Star*, damp from the press, for the purpose of hearing some member of our household read out [loud] to him and others." The secret ballot was another attempt to ensure that the illiterate could vote in private (with a trusted ally), rather than in public at the hustings.

Who would be the main losers and who would truly benefit most from the Chartist success? What was their stance on female suffrage?

Some Chartists, like George Julian Harney, were red-blooded republicans who avidly followed the French and European revolutions in 1848. This wasn't the case for all factions of the movements, but as a correspondent of figures such as Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, we can speculate that figures such as Harney and others like Bronterre O'Brien and William Cuffay would have been very glad to see members of the aristocracy who didn't have radical sympathies lose much of their assets, and have their generational incomes redistributed to state funds to support food and sanitation reforms. Manual labourers would have benefited the most from the Chartists' proposed aims, and likely would have been able to retire at a reasonable age with a full pension, rather than having to work through illness or depend on their children for financial support.

William Lovett, author of the 'People's Charter' (1838), revealed in his 1873 autobiography that he had originally intended to expand "a vote for all men aged 21" to include women, but it was generally decided that the demand for women to have the vote would have been seen as too unreasonable, and was left out. RJ Richardson, author of *The Rights of Woman*, argued that married women would be "represented by their husbands", as a married couple represented one soul under God. He supported some groups who proposed adding a seventh point to the Charter that would expand suffrage to widowed and single women, although it's worth noting that these regions, notably Birmingham's Female Political Union, had strong Female Radical Associations.

Women were active in the Chartist movement throughout the period, whether directly addressing meetings as London activists Susanna Inge and Mary Ann Walker did, resulting in their being vilified in the popular press including *Punch*, or by 'radical domesticity' in organising meetings and social functions, educating their children in the home, and campaigning for improvements to their own working conditions. Chartism was a movement based on class, rather than gender, but women in the movement took what we would now call an intersectional approach to pointing out the hypocrisy of middle-class women as domestic managers whose priority had to be their family, rather than working outside the home for financial gain. David Jones notes that some Chartist women appealed to Queen Victoria on this basis, using open letters, petitions, and even a memorial procession to communicate their protests.

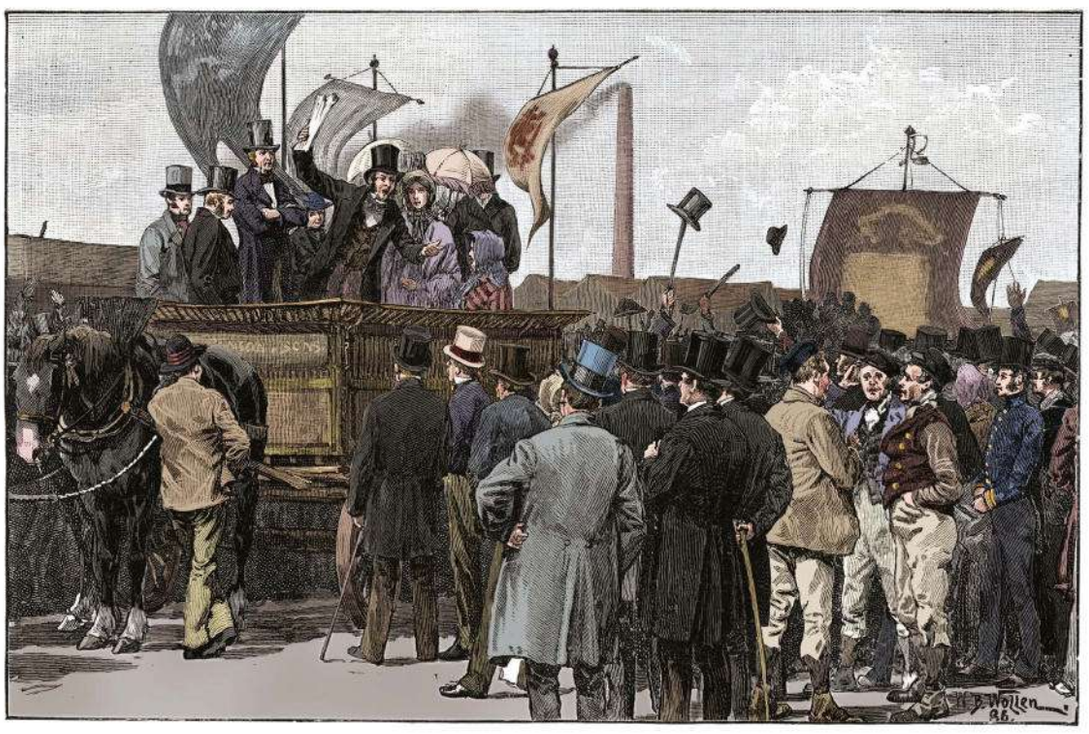
How effective was the promotion of their views and the communication between Chartist groups?

Chartists relied on their own newspapers and periodicals to communicate en masse.

The 'readers and correspondents' columns of papers like the *Chartist Circular* and *Northern Star* included letters from individuals and families looking to speak to other people who have established local branches of the National Charter Association in their local areas, or even to ask for donations of books and periodicals to local circulating libraries. Just as social media can connect us with people with the same interests all over the world, newspapers and periodicals enabled activists in the 1840s a very strong network of communication.

To what extent did more radical activists within the movement blur the message and endanger support from potential sympathisers?
Chartism famously had two main factions: 'physical force' and 'moral force' activists. 'Moral force' Chartists, like William Lovett, Francis Place, and John Collins of the London Working Men's Association, argued for peaceful demonstrations that communicated their aims and demands within a framework of middle-class Victorian respectability. They argued for systematic forms of education of children, temperance or abstention from alcohol, and the use of existing modes of formal, literate protest to demonstrate the working classes' 'moral' right to suffrage. The 'physical force' Chartists weren't bloodthirsty, but rather impatient. Taking inspiration from the American and French Revolutions, 'physical force' advocates like George Julian Harney argued for 'a gun in one hand and a petition in the other', using armed uprisings and mass strike action to achieve their aims. Notable Chartist 'risings' in this vein include the Newport Rising of 1839, and the Sheffield Rising of 1840. The instigators of these alienated support from middle-class sympathisers and were punished harshly, resulting in the transportation of the Newport leaders to Australia, and imprisonment with hard labour for Samuel Holberry of Sheffield.

In what way can we say that the Chartist movement did have a degree of success rather than total failure?
This is a question I love to set my students! In my view, it's safe to say that even if the Chartist petitions didn't succeed immediately, the movement set a precedent for standards of political citizenship and belonging that were carried forth by subsequent generations. Of the six points of the People's Charter (abolition of property qualification to stand as MP, votes for all men over age 21, payment for MPs, secret ballots, equal electoral districts, and annual parliaments), only one hasn't been enacted. While in recent memory we have seen payment of MPs be exploited, generations later in the 21st century we are benefiting from the legislative changes the Chartists campaigned for. The movement aimed more broadly to better the lives of working-class people through active participation in politics, and improve literacy and working conditions.



BELOW
After a meeting on Kennington Common, the Chartists' third and final petition was presented (and rejected), in 1848

THE POSSIBILITY

1900

LABOUR NOT REQUIRED

Had the Chartists been successful in their endeavours then some 60 years later it may not have been necessary to form the Labour Party. The need for drastic reform of working practices, pay and conditions, and the right of working people to vote and stand for election themselves, as well as trade unions, may well have already been dealt with by the National Charter Association in the middle of the 19th century. The earlier existence of a structured, organised and effective opposition party representing the majority of working people may have had a profound effect on politics and policy both at home and overseas.

1901

A SHRINKING CROWN

The actions of more radical Chartists had rallied many against them. But with the ordinary working people given real representative power in politics and the law, the monarchy would possibly not escape their attention. For many the Crown was the epitome of inequality and the power of property and wealth. And while the abolition of the monarchy may not have been a desirable outcome for most, greater accountability for public money it received and especially the curbing of its spending on lavish events would possibly have become, much earlier, a matter of public interest, scrutiny and debate as is the case today.

1850 ONWARDS

WHERE THE HEART IS

Instead of being exploited in foul, cramped housing conditions that were death traps of disease for all, there may possibly have been a more regulated system of rented housing for workers, with fair payment and healthy conditions in which workers could thrive. With the power of the ballot box, the working class would attract greater interest from MPs to champion their cause and push for ever more reform to improve the lives of their constituents. And with such a focus on properly regulated rented accommodation, the balance of home ownership today might have possibly been very different.

All images: © Alamy, © Getty Images

Through History

UNCOVERING THE MINOTAUR'S LABYRINTH

A new exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum explores the discovery of the ruins at Knossos

In 1900, British archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans began to excavate the ruins of Knossos on the island of Crete. The location of one of Ancient Greece's most infamous myths, the world waited to see what Evans would unearth after people had searched for centuries to uncover the home of the Minotaur. According to legend, the creature was kept imprisoned in the Labyrinth at Knossos and fed sacrificial victims.

While digging at Knossos, the ancient home of the Minoans, Evans uncovered a world of ruins and artefacts, including a labyrinthine building with a stone throne that he called the "Palace of Minos". The Palace contained the remains of beautiful and colourful frescoes and clay tablets that featured an early form of writing. Now, an array of Evans' discoveries are on display at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, of which Evans had been the director. Labyrinth: Knossos, Myth & Reality showcases Minoan artefacts he helped to uncover, including some on loan from Greece, alongside Evans' drawings and reconstructions of Knossos and immersive videos that take visitors on a virtual tour of the site. The exhibition also charts more recent discoveries at Knossos, and looks at the way the Minoan civilisation is perceived.

Main image: ©Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford

BULL'S HEAD

▲ One of many bull-themed items from Knossos on display, this replica of a fresco from the North entrance of the palace of Minos shows the head of a bull. It is painted plaster and is from the early 20th century.

© Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford

SILVER COIN

▲ This ancient coin, found at Knossos, is part of the Ashmolean's collection of artefacts from the site. It is made of silver, dates to between c.300 and 270 BCE and is engraved with a depiction of the Minotaur's Labyrinth.

© Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford

HEAD OF ZEUS

▶ This bust, which depicts the head of the chief Greek god Zeus, was found at the Anetaki plot in Knossos. It is made from marble and dates from between 1 and 300 CE.

© Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion

LABYRINTH: Knossos, Myth & Reality

is now open at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, UK until 30 July 2023

THE POROS EWER

One of the offerings found in a grave, the Poros Ewer is an ornate jug that is decorated in the Marine Style of the seafaring Minoan culture. It is believed to have been made by a specialised workshop operating in Knossos and Poros.

© Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Heraklion Archaeological Museum

BULL'S HEAD RHYTON

Found in the 'Little Palace' in Knossos, the bull's head rhyton is yet another bull-themed artefact. Rhytons were vessels that held liquid, with 'rhyton' meaning 'to flow'. A hole in the bull's nose allows liquid to be poured from the head.

© Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Heraklion Archaeological Museum

GOLD RING

▲ Believed to have been acquired by Arthur Evans in Archanes, near Knossos in the 1920s, this gold ring shows a person leaping over a bull. This design seems to have been a Minoan motif and may have been a symbol of the palace itself.

© Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford

MINOTAUR SCULPTURE

▶ This sculpture of the mythical Minotaur is made from marble and dates from between 1 and 300 CE. The Minotaur came to be a symbol of Crete and the myth became popularised throughout the rest of Greece, particularly in Athens.

© Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, National Archaeological Museum

GRIFFIN DAGGER

▼ This dagger was made between 1450 and 1375 BCE from ivory, bronze, gold and silver and is one of the more recent finds from Knossos. Decorated with a griffin, the dagger is the only royal weapon found at the site.

© Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Ephorate of Antiquities of Heraklion

REVIEWS

The books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world this month

★★★★★
"ASTOUNDING. AMONG THE BEST FILMS ABOUT ANY ARTIST I'VE EVER SEEN."
BOWIE
MOONAGE DAYDREAM
A film by BRETT MORGEN
IN THEATERS GLOBALLY AND IMAX SEPTEMBER 16

© Alamy

MOONAGE DAYDREAM

A hallucinogenic exploration of the life and career of David Bowie

Certificate: 15 **Director:** Brett Morgen **Cast:** David Bowie (self) **Released:** 2022 (out now on Netflix)

In 2016, the world lost David Bowie. Musician, actor and even painter, he had a seismic effect on 20th century popular culture through his ever-evolving contributions. Little wonder then that six years later in 2022 the 'definitive' documentary *Moonage Daydream* was released to rave reviews and almost universal acclaim. Now having landed on Netflix in the UK, any of us who missed its relatively short run in cinemas can finally see what all the fuss is about. A trippy look at the rock legend's career, the film is the work of Brett Morgen, who previously helmed another rock-star documentary, *Kurt Cobain: Montage of Heck* in 2015. However, perhaps 'visual montage' is a better term to describe this unique look at the one and only David Bowie.

Moonage Daydream is not a documentary that seeks to tell a strictly narrative story of Bowie's life. There is no detail of how he entered the music industry, his work in films or even his first marriage. Instead, it seeks to explore Bowie's changing persona, his personal beliefs and his position as an artist. Morgen does this through the marrying of music and imagery, making sure the story is told through Bowie's own words and, crucially, his music.

Words such as 'kaleidoscopic' and 'cosmic' seem to be brought up a lot whenever *Moonage Daydream* is discussed and they are certainly appropriate. The visuals on display are trippy and unusual. When focusing on Ziggy Stardust for example, bizarre flashes of cult science-fiction films such as *Barbarella* (1968) and *This Island Earth* (1955) are interwoven with vintage footage of Bowie performances and his thumping music. It's an intoxicating mix that sells the vibrant, kinetic and otherworldly energy this early part of Bowie's career had.

However, this unique approach also means the film can be something of a slog at times. With a run-time of over two hours, the constant pounding score and bright, flashing visuals begin to grate at around an hour and a half. Additionally, as all of the context is provided by vintage interviews with Bowie discussing his philosophies and worldview, at times it can feel repetitive. Particularly when there is a distinct lack of focus on some areas, perhaps most glaringly sections of his personal life and his later career. Those familiar with Bowie's story will certainly be able to follow the film's trajectory. However, for those viewers who don't have *Diamond Dogs* among their record collection, a quick glance over his Wikipedia page before watching is advised.

More a mood piece than anything else, *Moonage Daydream* seeks to take the viewer on a journey inside the head of David Bowie. The fact that it achieves something close to this is no mean feat, even if at 2h 15 minutes it can be a sometimes gruelling experience. Perhaps not the 'definitive' documentary then, but even Morgen seemed to chafe at such a suggestion when this film was originally released. It's still a rewarding and unique visual experience though that fans will likely appreciate most of all. ***CM***

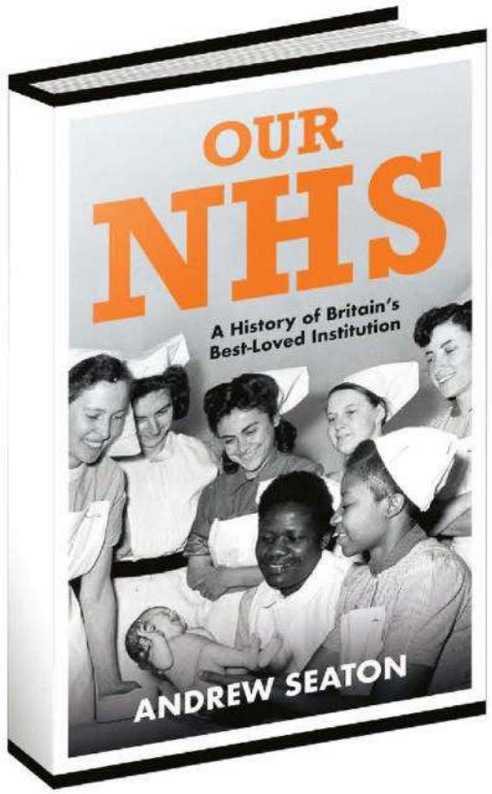
★★★☆☆

Reviews by
Callum McKelvie, Jonathan Gordon, Emily Staniforth

OUR NHS

A thorough biography of a uniquely beloved institution

Author: Andrew Seaton **Publisher:** Yale University Press
Price: £20 **Released:** 27 June 2023



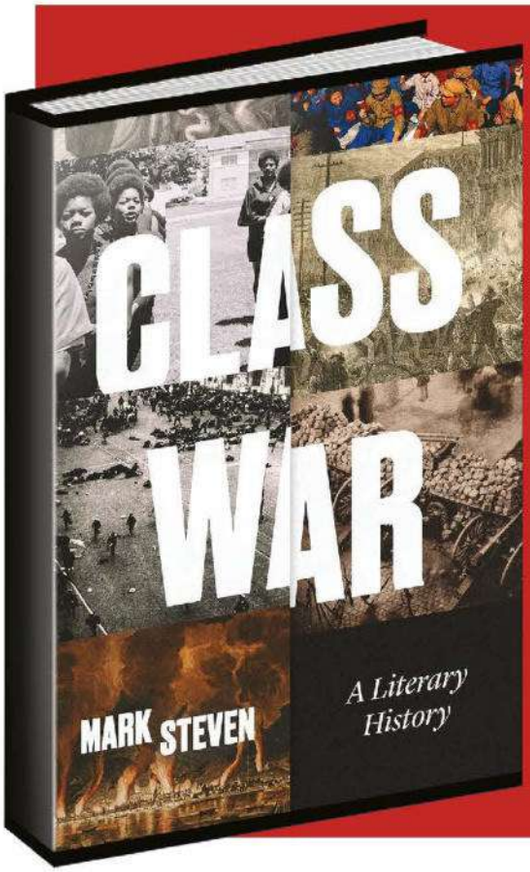
From the outset, Andrew Seaton promises a from-the-inside-out perspective in this history of the NHS. As a result, we get to read about the experience of those in the service and those who used it. So, instead of a perspective that is constantly looking for signs of an NHS in decline or on the rise, we get a picture of a service that is taking on the totemic quality it still retains.

Seaton rightly identifies that the NHS is at the centre of British identity and looks to pick apart why it should be so. As he explores this topic, we see that it is more than just the fact that it has touched the lives of just about everyone who lives in the country. He paints a picture of an institution that was not inevitable in its success, nor secure for its entire history, but one that needed to be buttressed and reformed over time. Both its early detractors and activists are given time here.

One early interesting area is how a concerted campaign was used to help engender the NHS to the British populace, calming fears about state medicine and breeding hope around a humanistic health program. They actively fostered an image for the NHS as being a place of egalitarian values, with something 'British' in its essence.

The book occasionally meanders in smaller stories that can seem a diversion from the main narrative, but this is a very personal account of the NHS and there's an intimacy to it that can be very engrossing too. ***JG***

★★★★☆



CLASS WAR

An exhaustive exploration of class conflict through literature

Author: Mark Steven **Publisher:** Verso Books
Price: £18.99 **Released:** Out now

Class War is an intriguing new work from Verso Books that seeks to explore the notion of class conflict and uprising through literature.

The author is Dr Mark Steven of the University of Exeter who is refreshingly clear about his own beliefs. His biography on the University of Exeter's website claims he "makes no bones about the fact that this research is fuelled by political commitment." All historical work, whether intentionally or not, is informed by personal bias. Yet occasionally, historical works can be dry and tedious, the authors afraid of letting any personal convictions come through. Even though Steven's style is strictly academic in tone, his arguments are made with an informed vibrancy, instead of being analysed from a distance in a cold and detached manner.

Steven's research is meticulous, his sources numerous. He keeps his text current, even concluding with an intriguing discussion of the recent Black Lives Matter movement. At points, particularly to someone not well versed in the subject matter, it can be hard to follow. This is an incredibly academic work and is perhaps not suited to those with a rudimentary knowledge of socialist literature.

Class War is a truly impressive achievement. The research is clearly painstaking and Steven's commitment to what is a relatively substantial study is obvious. However it is a little on the heady side and perhaps more suited to lecture halls and seminar rooms than the average coffee table. ***CM***

★★★★☆

History Of Africa

Explore the highlights of Africa's history, from the world's oldest humans to its youngest nation. Discover the ancient and medieval civilisations that crossed the continent, plunge into the dark history of slavery, and find out how Pan-African independence movements have been working to restore equality and peace in the wake of the continent's complex and nuanced legacy.

Buy *History Of Africa* in shops or online at **magazinesdirect.com Price:** £14.99

HISTORY of WAR **RECOMMENDS...**

Hitler's Aristocrats

Author Susan Ronald **Price** £25 **Publisher** Amberley Publishing

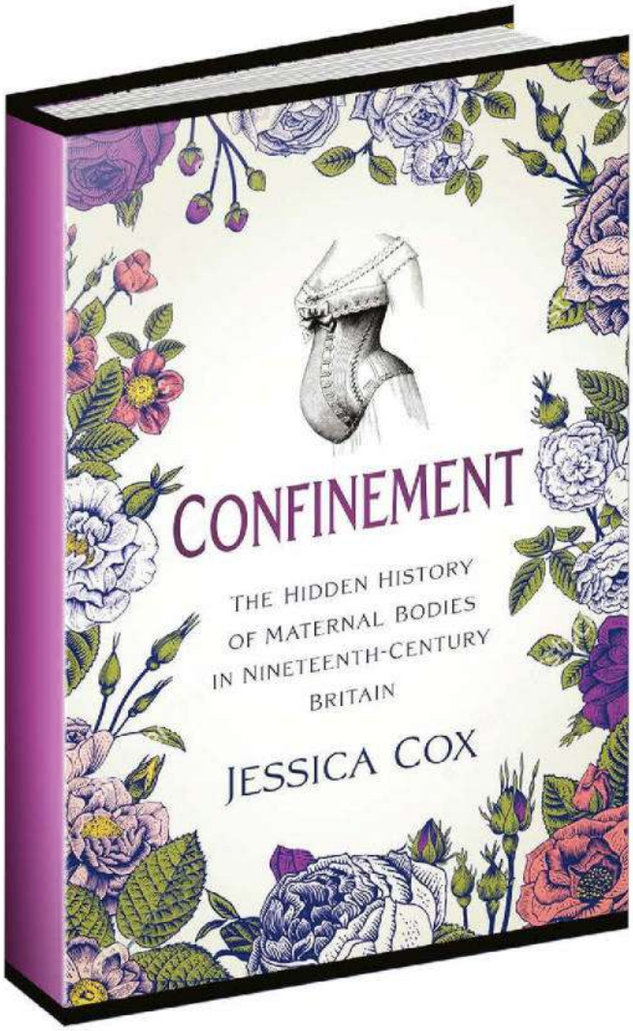
Given Adolf Hitler's humble origins, there is a grotesque irony in the fact that this son of a small-town Austrian customs official would one day bask in the adulation of some of Europe and America's highest-ranking aristocrats and captains of industry. In *Hitler's Aristocrats*, Susan Ronald explains how hundreds of influencers and enablers actively worked to blind their countries on both sides of the Atlantic to what the dictator and his cohort of criminals were doing.

CONFINEMENT:

THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF MATERNAL BODIES IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY BRITAIN

An insightful and personal discussion of Victorian child-bearing and motherhood

Author: Jessica Cox **Publisher:** The History Press **Price:** £25 **Released:** 8 June 2023



"It is hard not to feel empathetic towards the women discussed in *Confinement*"

In this much-needed and intriguing study of childbirth and motherhood in Victorian Britain, academic Jessica Cox explores themes including fertility, labour, child loss and midwifery through the use of newspapers, coroner's reports and hospital archives. The resources that make this book so compelling and personal, however, are the letters and diaries she has uncovered that provide a real insight into the lives of women in the 19th century. Identifiable figures like Queen Victoria, Charlotte Brontë and Mary Wollstonecraft are featured throughout but poorer women like labourers, maids, sex workers and those who ended up in the workhouse, whose experiences are just as important, are also given voices through Cox's research. Such an individualised exploration of motherhood is supplemented with Cox's own experiences of pregnancy and childbirth, which helps the reader to observe both the parallels and dissimilarities between the ordeals of the Victorians and modern women.

This book can, at times, be an uncomfortable read as the treatment undergone by women in the 19th century was often questionable and sometimes dangerous. However, the discomfort one feels while reading only goes to highlight the importance of this topic and the harsh reality of the lives of Victorian women. As a female reader, it is hard not to feel empathetic towards the women discussed in *Confinement*. It is important to note that themes of suicide, sexual abuse, abortion, miscarriage, stillbirth and traumatic labours are prevalent throughout this study, and may prove emotionally challenging to some readers.

In the introduction to the book, Cox highlights that around 25 per cent of babies in the UK are now born via caesarean section. With little access to life-saving health care and medical procedures like this, it is hardly surprising that in the Victorian Age both infant and maternal mortality rates were much higher than they are today. It also goes to show how frightening the experience of pregnancy must have been for women who did not know if they, or their child, would survive it. With pregnancy such a taboo subject in 19th century Britain, there is not much known about the experiences of women from this time. As Cox highlights, there is a distinct absence of Victorian pregnancy depicted in art and literature, which means that her research goes a long way in bringing the private experiences of these women into the light.

Confinement also delves into societal expectations of women to not only have children, but to want children and how many women felt unable to advocate for their own desires. As the discrepancies between the health care of women and men today continues to be present in medical discourses, it is interesting to compare the rights of Victorian women and the access they had to medical care and mental health support with the fight for improvements in access to modern-day reproductive health care. ***ES***

★★★★★

HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

THE DESERT FOX

Director: Henry Hathaway **Starring:** James Mason, Cedric Hardwicke, Jessica Tandy **Country:** USA **Year:** 1951

WWII general Erwin Rommel is portrayed as opposing Nazi ideology, with a role in the assassination attempt on Hitler

VERDICT: A mostly factual account, with a clear agenda to portray Rommel as a sympathetic figure worthy of respect.

01 Based on a biography by Desmond Young, *The Desert Fox*'s opening sequence shows his refusal to accept a German order to demand a British artillery unit surrender, Rommel defending him. This incident purportedly occurred, and here Young plays himself.

02 During a key sequence, Adolf Hitler refuses Rommel's request for a strategic retreat during the second battle of El-Alamein, stating: "Victory or death". Rommel did originally hold his position as commanded, but he later ordered a retreat.

03 *The Desert Fox* has been called instrumental in the creation of the 'Rommel Myth', the idea that Rommel was a military genius with staunch morals who did not have an allegiance to Nazi ideals. Historians continue to debate whether or not this is accurate.

04 The film fully implicates Rommel as having knowledge of the 20 July assassination attempt on Hitler. In reality, Rommel's widow, Lucie, said he was against killing the Führer, preferring he be arrested. How much he knew of the plot is unknown.

05 At the end of the film, Rommel is charged with treason and given the option of forced suicide or having his wife and son suffer. Although we cannot know exactly what took place during his meeting with two officers, this version of events is largely accepted.

All images: © Getty Images, © Shutterstock

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THE ULTIMATE HISTORY COOKBOOK
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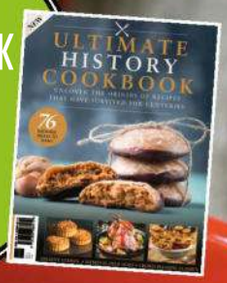


Did you know?

When they are presented in the shape of a Celtic knot, jumbles are sometimes referred to as Tudor Lovers' Knots.

Main image © Alamy
Inset image © Getty Images

LEMON JUMBLES

A SPICED AND SUGARY KNOTTED BISCUIT, ENGLAND, 1485-PRESENT

Ingredients

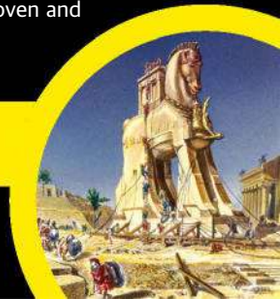
- 375g plain flour
- 150g caster sugar
- 60g unsalted butter
- 4 medium eggs
- 1 tsp caraway seeds
- ½ tsp ground aniseed
- ½ tsp ground mace
- 1 lemon

A favourite Tudor sweet treat, jumbles are a type of biscuit flavoured with a variety of exotic spices, the oldest known recipe for which was found in a book from 1597 called *The Good Huswife's Jewell*. However, legend has it that the first jumbles recipe was discovered in the tent of Richard III's cook after the battle of Bosworth Field, making jumbles a Plantagenet recipe that the Tudors then popularised. This version flavours the biscuits with lemon as well as with the traditional Tudor spices to create a biscuit more similar to the jumbles made and eaten by the Victorians.

METHOD

01 Preheat the oven to 180 degrees
02 Using a pestle and mortar, grind the caraway seeds into a powder
03 Sieve the flour, caraway seeds, aniseed and mace into a bowl and stir to combine
04 Next, cube the butter and rub it into the flour mixture until it becomes a breadcrumb-like consistency
05 Zest and juice the lemon, then add the zest, juice and sugar to the flour and butter mix and stir to combine
06 Add three eggs to the mixture and stir together until a dough is formed
07 Cover the bowl with cling film and leave the dough to rise for 45-60 mins
08 Knead the dough and then roll into a rectangular shape
09 Cut the dough into short strips and then form each strip into an 'S' shape
10 Place the 'S' shapes onto a greaseproof paper lined baking tray, brush with the last beaten egg and sprinkle with caster sugar
11 Bake in the oven for 15 minutes until hardened and golden
12 Take the biscuits out of the oven and leave to cool on a wire rack

NEXT MONTH THE REAL TROY EXPLORED ON SALE 15 JUNE



HEVER CASTLE

Catherine & Anne

QUEENS RIVALS MOTHERS

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FEBRUARY – NOVEMBER 2023

Explore the complex connections between Catherine of Aragon & Anne Boleyn, two remarkable women.

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